

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 18, 1993

Published Since 1877

Frightening trends confront youth and children's leaders

By Karen Benson

WACO, Texas (BP) — The boy was angry. The couple he lived with in Oregon made him do his homework. So he killed them.

He was 13 years old.

CNN Headline News carried the story on Friday, March 5, 1993.

That same day, consultants in youth and children's work from the Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas met with researchers from Baylor University to discuss "Youth Ministry for the 21st Century."

What they learned was not pretty.

"Our work is cut out for us," said Tillman Rodabough, professor of sociology, social work, and anthropology at Baylor University.

Rodabough also is co-director of the Baylor Center for Community Research and Development, which just completed a study of youth programs in Southern Baptist churches.

"Across America, rich kids, middle-class kids, poor kids — all deal with risk and neglect on a scale unimagined in previous generations," Rodabough said.

"Problems of poverty, divorce, out-of-wedlock births, inadequate prenatal care, absentee parents, latch-key kids, violence, and drugs are no longer confined to the ghetto — if they ever were," he said.

"We like to think of America as a child-centered nation — that they are cherished, protected, nurtured, and offered opportunity unmatched anywhere else in the world," Rodabough said.

"Closer inspection reveals an ominous shift toward the devaluation of children. We slash school

budgets, build adults-only housing, deny working parents the right to spend a few weeks with their newborn babies. It shows."

Other trends and forecasts are just as frightening, he said. For example:

— Education: More than 1 million children and youth drop out of school each year.

"American children know little about the world they live in, and they do not possess many skills necessary to be productive in our society," Rodabough said.

Fewer than half of all American youth can determine the correct change after purchasing a hamburger and a Coke at McDonald's, he said.

According to the Committee for Economic Development, high school dropouts cost the nation more than \$250 billion a year in lost earnings and foregone taxes, Rodabough said. "This does not include the billions this group will cost us for crime control, welfare, and other social services."

— Violence: Ten children are shot and killed every day in America — almost 4,000 per year, Rodabough reported. More than 200,000 die of child abuse every year, usually at the hands of family members. Suicide has tripled among youth during the past 20 years.

— Drugs: Almost a half million drug-exposed babies are born each year — now nearing 20% of all births, Rodabough reported.

"This is one of the saddest indictments of a civilization," Rodabough said.

— Teen pregnancy: One out of 10 teen-agers becomes pregnant every year.

Perhaps the deregulation of television under the Reagan administration should take some blame, Rodabough suggested. "Now, latch-key kids can go home and watch such interesting programs as 'Oprah Winfrey,' 'Donahue,' and 'Geraldo' between 3 and 5 in the afternoon. These talk shows have a combined viewing audience of 40

million — a third of whom are thought to be under age 18."

In the face of these trends and the shift toward devaluation of children, those involved in youth ministries in churches are to be "admirable," Rodabough said.

"What those of you here tonight do determines the future of our children, of our families, of our

churches, of our nation, and of our world," he said.

"Each of us in our various vocations addresses the central issue of training the youth from a Christian perspective," Rodabough said. "We must receive these young people in Christ's name and train them up in the way that they shall go."

Benson writes for WMU.

Hope for the Scourge of Divorce

By Judy Waggoner

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (ZPS) — Little dampens the eye or causes a lumpy throat more consistently than the sight of a beautiful young bride dressed in virginal white with her fearless, ardent groom at her side. But what are the chances that this couple will grow old together?

Instead of marriage being a lifetime commitment, it has become a gamble. More than half of U.S. marriages fail — the worst record of any country. The National Center for Health Statistics reports the number of divorces has tripled since 1960.

According to the National Survey on Families and Households done by the University of Wisconsin, six of 10 new marriages will end in divorce or separation.

Says pollster George Gallup Jr.: "This particular scourge has become so endemic that it is virtually ignored. The scourge is divorce, an oddly neglected topic in a nation where divorce is a 'root problem,' the cause of any number of other social ills."

Yet there is hope.

"Over the past decade, I have

come across many creative strategies to save marriages," says Michael J. McManus, syndicated newspaper columnist, former TV producer, and Time correspondent.

McManus showcases several programs in his recent book, *Marriage Savers* (Zondervan-PublishingHouse, 1993), which have been implemented and proven to reduce the divorce rate. These programs range from educational to enriching, and target teens, seriously dating, engaged, and married couples, including those in marriages already in jeopardy.

"When 1.1 million teens get pregnant a year, they are not learning discipline needed for lifelong marriage," says McManus. "Rather, promiscuity is preparing them for divorce or welfare!" A major 1992 study concurs, finding that those who have been sexually active before marriage are 60% more likely to divorce than those who are virgins when they marry.

Public school sex education programs that focus on abstinence, such as "Sex Respect," "Teen

Aid," "Postponing Sexual Involvement," and "Values & Choices," as well as "Why Wait?," a program designed for church youth groups by Josh McDowell, have proven to help reduce teen pregnancy by 50% or more.

For those couples who are already married, McManus recommends a Marriage Encounter weekend, the result of a movement founded in 1968 and experienced by 1.5 million couples.

McManus charges the church with the responsibility of altering the trend to divorce. Clearly, organized religion is involved in most marriages, but it is often simply a "blessing machine," he says. "Be that as it may, the church's very access to most marriages is also a source of great hope. I think any community could slash its divorce rate in half within a decade if its churches cooperated in a conscious plan to save marriages with such programs as described in *Marriage Savers*. That is the basis for long-term hope."

Waggoner writes for Zondervan Press Syndicate.

Black Baptists hold June meet

The National Missionary Baptist Sunday Church School and Baptist Training Union Congress will convene in Detroit, Mich., June 13-20 at the Cobo Exhibition Center. The Detroit Westin Renaissance Hotel will be the host hotel for the congress.

The National Baptist Publishing Board of Nashville, one of the oldest and largest religious publishers in the country, sponsors the session each year. T.B. Boyd III is president and chief executive officer of the board.

The congress was created in 1905 by Richard Henry Boyd with the purpose of creating a summer "Chautauqua" through which the educational programs and materials of the National Baptist Publishing Board could be promoted. It also focused on the training of black Baptist missionaries, teachers, and leaders.

The theme for this year's annual event is "The Gospel of Faith and Power of God in a World Without Walls." The list of issues which will be discussed at the congress will include education, housing, foreign missions, and strengthening the role of the black family.

Jim Holley, pastor of Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church, will be host pastor of the Detroit congress.

Missions Day Camp at SBC

HOUSTON (BP) — A number of changes will mark this year's SBC Missions Day Camp for children grades 1-6 of messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, June 15-17.

"Children attending this year's day camp will be able to visit two Houston attractions, the NASA Space Center Houston and the Houston Children's Museum," said Tim Seanor, SBC Missions Day Camp coordinator. "We wanted to let the children experience something unique to the SBC host city, and both of these attractions have been open less than one year."

Another change is pre-registration, which is being offered for the first time. To pre-register a child, parents should write SBC Missions Day Camp, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or call (901) 272-2461. Parents will receive a registration packet. Pre-registration forms must be received by the Brotherhood Commission no later than May 1, 1993.

Learning opportunities...

MBMC

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is now offering classes in diabetes management skill, self-breast examination, adult swimming lessons, asthma support group, living through cancer, a support group for people grieving the death of a loved one (called H.O.P.E.), and a nutrition infoline. Call 968-5135 for more information.

BSSB

The Baptist Sunday School Board will hold its annual workshop for aspiring writers July 19-22 in Nashville. Robert J. Hastings, author of the *Tinyburg Tales* series and many other books, will lead the 1993 Writers Workshop. He will deal with a variety of subjects, including: writing with clarity, feeling, and creativity; and fiction writing. For more information, write Church Program Training Center, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203, or call (615) 251-2294.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The golden years

When I had about half as many years on me as I do today, I wrote a great sermon on the "Joy of Growing Old." It's much easier to do at that age. Today the title would be different — maybe, "Growing older, Like it or Not." Or, I would call it in Erma Bombeck's language, "If nursing homes were prisons, we're all headed for the slammer."

Some mournful but observant poet wrote:

"To get his wealth he spent his health

And then with might and main,
He turned around and spent his wealth

To get his health again."

The number of older people is growing three times faster than the number of younger people. Eighty percent of the elderly are cared for at home or in the homes of their children. What is to be done when husband and wife are working full time? Mom is unable to care for herself, can't remember to take her medicine regularly, or may slip and fall if left unattended.

Few people will ever sit down and plan long term care for the elderly. It usually takes a crisis to precipitate the decision. The emotional and financial disaster can wipe you out. Bank accounts are emptied, relationships ruined, and guilt stalks in like a summer storm.

In addition, elderly abuse is on the increase, says CNN News, and the number could be up in the mil-

lions. An elderly man with Alzheimer's disease was abandoned recently at a race track in a western state. One woman was found in a garbage dump scrounging for food. Her children had left her there. CNN declared it to be more than a family problem; it's also society's problem.

"Living alone could shorten your life," says Dr. Robert Case of Manhattan's St. Luke-Roosevelt Hospital. Then Clif Cartland, writing in *World Vision* (July 1991), points out that "millions of the world's elderly live alone and over looked by society."

Thousands of elderly parents have been abandoned in Haiti, Central America, and areas of Europe as their children sought better economic environments but left no forwarding address. The commandment has not been deleted: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

In February, Zondervan, the international Christian Communication Company, hosted an "Elder-Care Fair" for its employees.

"Today's middle-age parents are often caught in the 'sandwich' generation where they have children at home and elderly parents who also need their assistance," says Evelyn Riley of Zondervan. At the fair, there were 22 ex-hibitors representing nursing homes, health care,

retirement apartments, Social Security, Medicare, and others.

In the latest census there were 31 million people in the U.S. over 65. This is 12.6% of the total population; by 2050, 23% will be in that category. The graying of America continues. Good health care has increased the life span and satisfactory solutions are difficult to find.

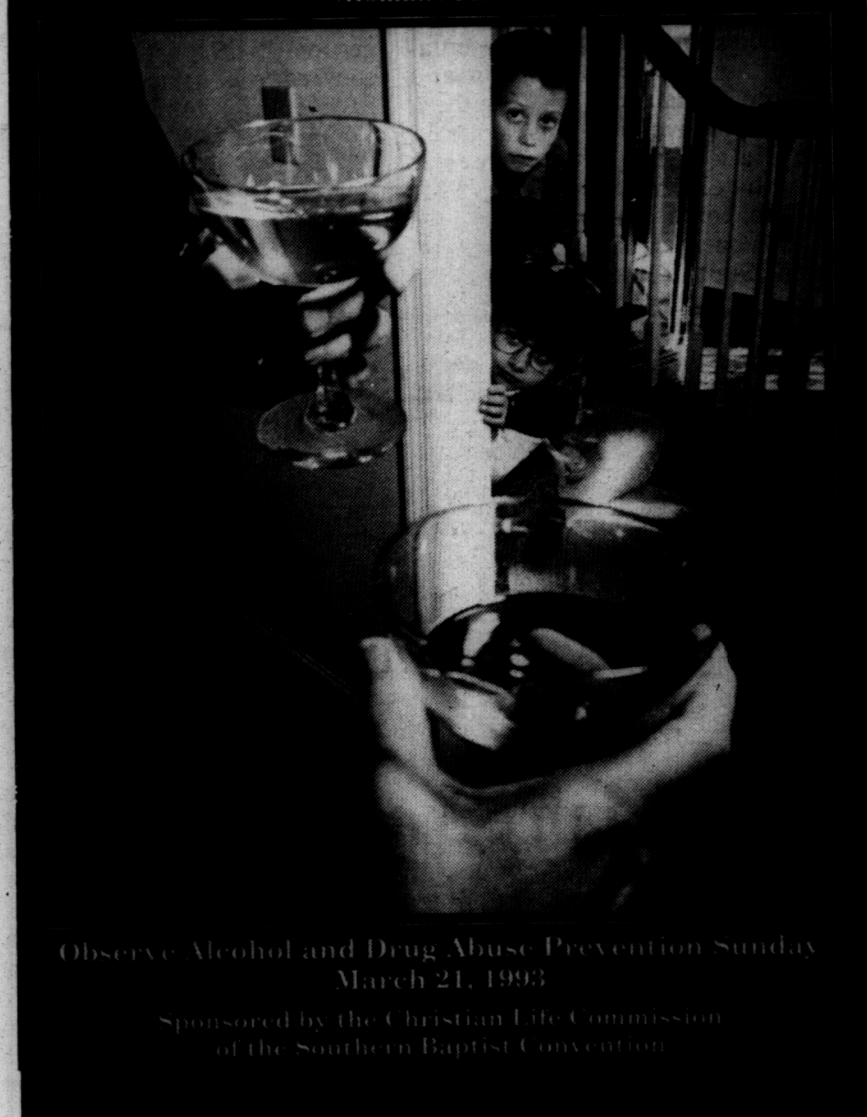
Long range planning is essential for whatever transition is to take place. If you are middle age, you may wish to take charge now of your life beyond 70. Discuss it with your children, explore plans A, B, and C. The geriatric express moves quickly and the golden years can become a burden of age.

The graying of America is affecting our churches today. The president of the National Council on Aging, Daniel Thursz, said, "Despite the fact that churches and synagogues have a higher percentage of older persons than the population at large... many congregations lack specific information about 'how to' and 'why' they should become involved in expanded ministries serving older people. Religious leaders have failed to act as fully as they might to this challenge."

Many of our elderly have served faithfully in our churches all their lives. Surely a ministering church will want to help meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the aging in the community.

'It is good neither...to drink wine'

(Romans 14:21)



Observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday
March 21, 1993

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Cook stove and all

A reverent hush fell over the group as she lifted the lid of the old trunk. Faded clothes, blankets, and a few news clippings were the first things to be seen. She rummaged through a packet of old letters, some with 3-cent stamps on them, and finally announced she had found her "church letter."

Attitudes, doctrines, and opinions vary toward church letters. Some treat it as a ticket to glory, others as a historical document ranking right up there with the Monroe Doctrine. The church letter is basically between churches — one church recommending a person to another church. It is temporary, and should have a "shelf-life" date on it.

Former President Jimmy Carter advised President Bill Clinton: "Remember, when you move your cook stove, you need to move your church membership." Not bad advice, since Southern Baptists now have over 5,000,000 non-resident members. If you are in that number, do your home church a favor and transfer your membership.

"Watchcare" relationship in a church has recently surfaced. The president of Southeastern Seminary, Paige Patterson, and his wife have been denied a "watchcare" relationship with the 158-year-old

Wake Forest Baptist Church adjacent to the seminary campus. Patterson, a self-acknowledged architect of the fundamental/conservative resurgence in the SBC, had submitted a written request for "watchcare status." The church felt it would be divisive if they received the Pattersons into the membership. "Watchcare" is described by Tom Jackson, Wake Forest pastor, as a form of temporary membership primarily designed for students at Wake Forest College.

In the olden days "watchcare" status was given to individuals until the church received a letter of recommendation from a sister church. It was considered temporary and the person was prohibited from voting. Also, some churches on the frontier used this status for Methodists, Presbyterians, etc., when that particular denomination did not have a church nearby.

Christ loves the church. The fellowship is or should be akin to heaven. Having agape-type love for one another, praying and caring for one another, will produce a loving fellowship which becomes sweeter as the days go by. It is something to be valued and enables us to join with fellow believers in extending the kingdom of God. — GH

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday, March 21—

"It is good neither to drink wine"

By Lamar E. Cooper Sr.

The Surgeon General's report on teenage use of beverage alcohol is alarming. Our nation already has in excess of 18 million alcoholics, 4.5 million of whom are teenagers. The current generation of drinking youths has the potential to more than double that number.

Of the 20.7 million teenagers in grades 7 to 12, 50% reported that they drink beverage alcohol and 35% reportedly did so with parental consent. Even though the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited to anyone under 21 years of age in all 50 states, teenagers report no difficulties in obtaining these drinks.

Liquor industry standards have created pitfalls for young people. An array of products such as fruit-flavored wine coolers appeal to teenage consumers. These coolers are packaged like fruit drinks and contain little or no alcohol taste, but are high in alcohol content.

Liquor industry officials claim

they have no interest in marketing to junior high and high school students even though 35% of all wine coolers are sold to that age group. More alarming are the 5.4 million youths who admit to "binge" drinking five or more consecutive drinks at least once a week. The average "binger" is 16 years old, in the 10th grade, and began drinking at age 12.

Paul enunciated the principle that we are to guard carefully our actions because of our influence. Whether an action is right or wrong is to be judged by its impact on other people. Anything that injures the conscience, health, or life of another human being is wrong. Voluntary surrender of such actions is an appropriate behavior for believers.

There are three aspects of the admonition from the apostle Paul in Romans 14:21. First, we are not to be the cause of the fatal fall of another person. Second, we are not

to obstruct the Christian course of another life by setting an example which might ensnare weaker believers. Third, we are not to use our liberty in Christ in any way that weakens another so that they are unable to handle what we by self-discipline and strength can handle. This covers anything that would knowingly affect others adversely.

Believers have a moral and spiritual responsibility as well as a biblical mandate to abstain from anything which would constitute a stumbling block for another person. This is especially true of our responsibility to the younger generation. When you abstain from the use of beverage alcohol, you demonstrate love for weaker believers and have an opportunity to strengthen and nurture them.

If you ignore your responsibility, especially to teenagers, you are liable to Jesus' warning of Matthew 18:6 (See WINE on page 9)

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 117

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 6

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Guy Henderson
Associate Editor William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager Renee Walley
Bookkeeper Betty Anne Bailey
Proofreader/Secretary Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Randy Turner, Laurel; Jackson; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Warren Collins, Taylorsville; Teresa Dickens, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800

SBC president discusses trustees, convention study, other issues

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustee boards of Southern Baptist agencies "need to be representative" of the denomination and should be balanced, the Southern Baptist Convention president said during a forum with trustees at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, March 10.

In a question-and-answer session with Southwestern trustees, Ed Young, pastor of Second Church in Houston, said SBC boards should represent the denomination while avoiding extremes in both the left and right wings.

"Those that are in the far right ditch, they're not going to make it. Those in the far left ditch, they're not going to make it," Young said. "Either way, you're in the ditch."

Acknowledging his input of specific names for trustees is limited after he appoints the Committee on Committees, Young said he will nonetheless encourage suggestions from the heads of SBC entities.

Asked about former SBC President Herschel Hobbs' recent suggestion that Baptist moderates and conservatives come together at the SBC this summer in Houston, Young said that day is past.

"If I had not been on the Peace Committee, I would think let's do something like that. But I think that day has passed. That's not being hard line," Young said.

Young defended his appointment of a task force designed to study various areas of work in the SBC. He said the study groups are not intended to replace the work of agency trustees.

"We need to rethink and renew our commitment. Bold Mission Thrust is about to retire," Young said. "We haven't had a lot of boldness. We haven't had a lot of missionary thrust the way I would like to see it."

Young said the task force has no authority but is intended to help Southern Baptists "dream about the

future. We need to dream the dream of Southern Baptists again."

Leaving past "denominational baggage" behind will take a "supernatural work of the Lord," Young said. "I think our spirit, our attitude is so vital and important." He added pejorative terms Baptists use for each other are "devastating."

Other issues Young addressed included:

— the role of trustees: "Trustees are to deal with policy and overall dreams and programs and be those who implement the vision of the president and leave this place excited about what's going on here." He said trustees "serve the president" as deacons serve a pastor. "I would hope they'd hold my arms up and love me and support me even when I'm wrong."

Trustees "can't teach in the school. We're not responsible for the curriculum, we're not responsible for the program and how it's (See YOUNG on page 8)



PRESIDENTIAL FORUM — Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young answers questions during a forum with trustees at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, March 10.

CLC trustees affirm Land, award Rogers

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christian Life Commission trustees voted unanimously to send a letter to the Executive Committee asking for the \$300,000 originally designated for a SBC building in Washington, D.C.

The \$300,000 was originally placed in an account with the Foundation in the 1960s but was later reclaimed by the Executive Committee in a dispute with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs over the funds. The dispute evolved from the SBC's decision to cut ties with the BJC. On Feb. 23 the Executive Committee approved a settlement with the BJC in which the Executive Committee agreed to give the BJC \$25,000 a year for four years out of operating reserves in exchange for a commitment to end the disagreement over the building fund.

In other action, the CLC trustees adopted a resolution which affirms the agency's executive director, Richard Land.

The trustees also voted unanimously to award the CLC's 1993 Religious Liberty Award to Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis and a former SBC president.

At the conclusion of the meeting,

CLC trustee Curtis Caine of Jackson, Miss., rose to a point of personal privilege and made three statements. No action was taken on any of the statements, and no further discussion resulted from them. He said:

1) "I do not think the Christian Life Commission should recommend reinstatement of action that would parallel the Neurenburg Trial.

2) "I do not think the Christian Life Commission should support the idea of the government supporting a sign-language translator in a secular school that it therefore must do so in a private school.

3) "If the Christian Life Commission is opposed to an ambassador from the United States to the Vatican, the Christian Life Commission should also oppose the United States sending an ambassador to the United Nations."

His reference to the Neurenburg Trail appeared to refer to Land's column in the March-April 1993 issue of the CLC's *Light* magazine in which Land expressed concern about "terrible acts of barbarity that have occurred routinely in parts of Yugoslavia known as Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Moore writes for CLC.

Lottie Moon giving is expected to drop

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — For the second time in three years, gifts to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions will fail to equal giving in the previous year, according to projections.

Foreign Mission Board planners had hoped Lottie Moon receipts would total \$84 million — the 1992 goal — and provide about 46% of the board's revenues for 1993. Instead, projections show receipts will total \$79.84 million, a \$1.5 million decrease from 1991's

offering. The projection has proven nearly correct in the past.

The projected 1.87% decrease in Lottie Moon receipts for the 1992 offering — instead of the needed 3.1 increase — will leave the Foreign Mission Board with about \$4 million less than it had planned to spend in 1993, if other receipts come in as expected.

The projection is based on a survey of the 14 largest Southern Baptist state conventions. Compared to 1991 offering receipts, 10 of the conventions showed decreases and

four showed increases in Lottie Moon receipts they were receiving from Southern Baptist churches in early March. The final offering is counted at the end of May.

The 1993 Foreign Mission Board budget adopted last fall projected overall budget growth from the year before of less than a 10th of 1%. Even with the increase in Lottie Moon giving expected at that time, the budget — at \$183.8 million — reflected a continued "leveling" of spending by the missionary-sending organization.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 18, 1993

Published Since 1877

SBC plans for Houston include WMU decision

By Art Toalston

HOUSTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention will face the volatile question of Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity during the SBC's annual meeting, scheduled June 15-17 in Houston.

While not officially on the agenda, the convention might be asked, in motions from the floor, to address changes adopted by the Woman's Missionary Union executive board broadening the auxiliary's work beyond SBC entities.

From action at last year's SBC meeting in Indianapolis, the convention will take the second of two required votes on a proposed change in the SBC constitution to disfellowship churches for actions which "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior."

"For Such a Time as This" will be the theme of the three-day meeting in Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center.

The SBC last met in Houston in 1979 when a conservative movement emerged to elect Memphis, Tenn., pastor Adrian Rogers as convention president, igniting a theological-political controversy of more than a decade in which conservatives bested moderates for control of the 15-million-member denomination.

Special features of the Tuesday-through-Thursday SBC will include:

— Evening extravaganzas June 15 and 16 of music, drama, multimedia presentations, preaching, and testimonies that will "put some heart and some soul and some real unction into our convention experience," said SBC President H. Edwin Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church.

The first focus of the Tuesday night extravaganza will be the SBC's six seminaries, "Challenge to Biblical Preparation."

The second focus will be the Baptist Sunday School Board's "dramatic musical spectacular," as its president, James T. Draper Jr., describes it, "The Bible Speaks — For Such a Time as This." The presentation will be designed to inspire and inform the audience of the variety and scope of the board's ministries, Draper said. It

will feature such personalities as country music performer Ricky Skaggs and Christian musicians Cynthia Clawson and Wayne Watson and other singers, actors, choirs, and video technology.

On Wednesday, a missionary extravaganza, "The Church's Missionary Zeal," will feature a combined report from the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards, missionary testimonies, and multimedia and dramatic presentations.

— the SBC presidential sermon by Young, who is likely to be nominated and elected to a second one-year term as convention president. Young also is expected to share an update from a broad study of the SBC he initiated last year. Nine study groups have been at work in such areas as foreign and home missions, theology, stewardship, families, women, and ethnics.

— the convention sermon by Jack Graham, pastor of Dallas' Prestonwood Church.

— interpretations of the Esther 4:14 "Such a Time as This" theme by Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission; and Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va.

Plenty of hotel and motel rooms remain available, said Herb Hollinger, an SBC Executive (See SBC on page 9)



Baptist hospital gives to Crestwood

JACKSON — Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's departments collected food, clothing, and toys for the Crestwood Baptist Mission last Christmas. The items were placed in wrapped boxes around the poinsettia Christmas tree in the lobby of the hospital. Luther Tucker, Crestwood manager, thanked the hospital staff for the gifts, saying, "Almost as fast as we received them, we gave them out to people who may not have had any other means to provide for their families.... It's good to know that we can at least give gifts above their basic needs once in a while."

Southern Baptists denounce murder of abortion clinic doctor

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists are reacting in horror to the shooting March 10 of abortion doctor David Gunn, 47, by alleged assailant Michael Frederick Griffin, a pro-life demonstrator.

Police say Gunn was shot three times outside an abortion clinic he opened in Pensacola, Fla., in February. They say Griffin admitted to shooting Gunn. The incident occurred during a pro-life demonstration at the clinic.

In 1984, Pensacola was the site of Christmas Day bombings of an abortion clinic and two doctors' offices.

Griffin gave police a .38-caliber snub-nosed revolver. The Washington Post reported March 11 Griffin yelled "don't kill any more babies" just before the shooting.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said, "The Christian Life Commission has, and does, oppose and deplore the use of violence to protest abortion. We deeply regret the tragedy of the

doctor shot and killed in Florida. To shoot and kill a human being in the name of saving human life is grotesque."

Land added, "However, we also grieve over the more than 4,000 unborn babies killed each day in abortion clinics across our land. The Christian Life Commission will continue to oppose and deplore acts of fatal violence against all human beings, born and unborn."

Bob Jewitt, a Southern Baptist who is media coordinator of Operation Rescue nationally, which is unrelated to Rescue America, said Operation Rescue has had more than 72,000 arrests since 1988 and "has not had one incident of violence."

"We've always taken a position of nonviolence in everything we do," he said. "Our organization does not encourage or condone violence. We don't think killing solves anything. We stand for the protection of life, and we don't just stop at unborn babies."

Baptist Book Store has new manager, Eddy Perry



Perry

Eddy Perry is the new manager of the Baptist Book Store in Jackson. He succeeds Charles McGlocklin who has retired. Perry previously was manager of the Baptist Book Store in Baltimore, Md.

A native of Clovis, N.M., Perry attended Dallas Baptist University, University of Texas, Arlington, and earned the B.B.A. degree in marketing and management from Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Perry has been youth minister at Williams Creek Church in Axel, Texas, and Grace Temple Church in Waco.

He and his wife, Jill, are the parents of one son, Bradley.

Adrian Rogers is critical of persons speaking for him

By Herb Hollinger

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Adrian Rogers, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, deplored Foreign Mission Board staff speaking on his behalf in an Associated Baptist Press March 2 story.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., said he was asked if the group, attending a meeting nearby, could come by the church Feb. 18 for a visit.

"It was a private conversation among friends," Rogers said.

Rogers said the "voodoo quotations" — other people quoting what he said — were unethical, and the least they could have done was to call him to ask permission to quote him.

However, Rogers told Baptist Press, the "conversation with friends" did include an affirmation of Woman's Missionary Union, dismay at the new approach by the national WMU to broaden its work beyond SBC entities and his conviction that if WMU no longer wants to be an auxiliary to the SBC but operate like a parachurch organization, it should no longer have a representative on the SBC Executive Committee or the Inter-Agency Council.

"I want to affirm what the WMU

has done" in its 105-year relationship with the SBC, Rogers said, "in helping raise funds for the missionaries and for promoting mission education."

Rogers said men in the SBC were wrong in 1888 to exclude women, which led to the WMU organizing as an auxiliary. It is not that women have been wrong in leading out in missions in Baptist churches, Rogers said, but that men have not taken an interest in missions like they should.

"We need to put male leadership back where it belongs," Rogers said, in supporting, promoting, and leading out in missions. When men take their rightful place in supporting missions then women and children also will be involved, he said.

"Look at the SBC annual meeting time — when the pastors are in one place having a meeting and the WMU is at another having its meeting," Rogers said in explaining how the two groups are apart. "It's a shame."

On the other hand, Rogers said he is dismayed at the "new tack, the new approach" voted by the national WMU in January. He said he would rather have the WMU continue to fully support Southern Baptist missions causes.

"If they (the WMU) are no

longer going to be an auxiliary to the SBC, and the SBC has no control over them like other SBC entities, then they have become a parachurch organization," Rogers said.

If they have the "freedom" of a parachurch organization then they should not have a representative on the SBC Executive Committee, Rogers said. No other SBC agency or any other entity has a representative on the Executive Committee.

The group met in Rogers' church office and included FMB personnel who were attending a world mission emphasis Feb. 15-19 at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis. Listed as attending the meeting were three FMB vice presidents — Sam James, Harlan Spurgeon, and Bill Wakefield — and staff members David Cornelius, Irma Duke, Don Reavis, Herman Russell, and Kenn Shirley.

Reavis and Duke were quoted in the ABP story talking about what Rogers said but other information in the story was attributed to "participants." ABP writer Robert Dilday, associate editor of the Religious Herald, journal of Virginia Baptists, noted "attempts to contact Rogers for comment were unsuccessful."

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

SWBTS professor composes oratorio

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — When Michael Cox conducts the 200-voice Oratorio Chorus at Southwestern Seminary in May, he will guide the choir with his hands. But his heart has already given the music its meaning.

Cox will be looking for the choir to interpret the music the way the composer intended it to be sung. Cox is the composer.

When the Oratorio Chorus performs Cox's "Magnificat" this spring, the composer/conductor will have one of Fort Worth's main stages for his witness. The seminary chorus has gained nationwide fame and packs Truett

Auditorium for every performance. A local music critic has called the choir "one of the best of its kind in the world."

The performance in May will be the premiere of "Magnificat." But it is by no means the first piece composed or arranged by Cox. He has received awards the last five years from the American Society of Composers, Authors, Publishers.

Growing up in Frazier Church, Memphis, Tenn., Cox remembers Sundays and Wednesdays, listening to booming voices sing the old hymns.

He completed his first anthem in

1978 while serving as associate professor at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. By then, he had learned his lessons well, having received a bachelor of music degree with honors from OBU, as well as a master of music degree from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

"Regardless of inherent skill, music develops so many parts of a person's life," he added. "A certain amount of gracefulness, poise, and expression through performance, as well as gaining and building self-confidence, are developed through music instruction."

Women can be "changed forever" by ministry, closeness to God

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Messages encouraging Christian women to love, to become involved, to retain or gain self-esteem, and to take control of their lives were echoed throughout a three-day conference in San Antonio, Texas.

More than 800 women from California to North Carolina attended the first National Christian Women's Enrichment Conference March 5-7. The conference was co-developed by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division and Woman's Missionary Union.

An urgent call to Southern Bap-

tist women to look up at the cross and reach out and touch the world was sounded by Esther Burroughs, assistant director for field staff in the Home Mission Board's evangelism development division.

"Oh, women of God, get your eyes open to the world around you," she said. "We are compelled by his love to touch the world."

Other general session speakers included Mamie McCullough, a motivational speaker and author from Richardson, Texas, and Minnette Drumwright, director of the Foreign Mission Board's International Prayer Strategy Office.

McCullough encouraged the

women to "stay in control of yourself and to live better today than yesterday." She also told them to "rest and read the Bible."

Drumwright urged the women to pursue growth in their spiritual lives.

Growth is not an option for the obedient Christian, Drumwright said, but it does have to be chosen. Humans naturally shy away from growth because of the pain it usually brings and the time it takes.

"Growth is the result of inner work by God," Drumwright said. "We cannot conjure it up. We cannot plaster it on our outward appearance. It is an inward process."

Africa concerns dominate BWA executive committee meeting

WASHINGTON (BP) — "We ought not to send any more money to Africa," thundered John Peterson, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and senior pastor of Alfred Street Church, Alexandria, Va.

"If we as Christians are concerned about Africa, we must go to the heart of the problem and stop the arms," said Peterson as he spoke to the BWA executive committee, which met in Washington March 1-4.

"Not one piece of artillery is made in Africa," said Peterson, who has made two peacekeeping-attempt trips to Liberia on behalf of the BWA. "All come from the industrialized world."

"We know the folk making millions of dollars," Peterson said. "If

we want to help Africa, stop the arms."

Peterson was one of several Baptist leaders who challenged the BWA executive committee to focus on and do something, especially politically, for Africa.

It was Africa, with her great joys — the rapid growth of the church — and her great sorrows — war, famine, disease and exploitation — that was the main focus of concern and prayer of the executive committee meeting.

Describing Africa as "a most needy and forgotten continent until the recent attention on Somalia," BWA President Knud Wumpelmann named this year "the year of Africa" and called on the BWA "to concentrate this year on what we can do for Africa."

Wumpelmann also pointed out while 1% of the population south of the Sahara was Christian at the beginning of the 20th century, today it is now 50%.

"We have a lot to learn from Africa and it is time for us in the West to receive some of this new life of worship," Wumpelmann said.

Wumpelmann gave examples of Christians who witnessed on the trains in South Africa as they travelled to and from the homelands for work — witness that has resulted in churches. He talked of the sacrificial faith of Christians in Burundi and other places of war who, knowing they could be killed, still gave their lives to full-time Christian ministry and leadership in Baptist churches.

"Church growth guru" Hardin now has a lab to test theories

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (BP) — If Packard Road Church doesn't grow, it won't be for lack of resources.

Armed with detailed neighborhood demographics, a direct-mail campaign and a pastor who edited Church Growth Magazine, the congregation is poised to move beyond being a "nurturing center for transplanted Southern Baptists" to reach the unchurched of Ann Arbor, says pastor Gary Hardin.

Hardin, 45, came here last August from the Baptist Sunday School Board's magazine, where as editor he was encouraged to become the board's "church growth guru."

Church growth is the hot topic of the '90s because so few are doing it, Hardin says. "There is great concern today about the large number of churches that are plateaued and in decline."

Only about 15% of all Christian churches in America are growing, Hardin says, a factor he attributes to congregations' comfort level.

"In every church are large numbers of people who are godly and who love their church, but they like their church the way it is."

"To grow is to change, and change is painful. So in other words, growth equals pain," he says with the confidence of a conference lecturer. "Now do you know why 85% of churches in America are not growing?"

A connoisseur of church growth books, tapes, and seminars, Hardin says all resources sing from the same hymnal. "There is a body of church growth principles that every resource addresses in one way or another."

The most important themes, he says, are:

- visionary leadership by the pastor.
- a clear understanding of the community.
- a high priority for evangelism and outreach.

Hardin is using those principles to inspire Packard Road with a vision for tripling its membership

in three years, though innovative worship, aggressive evangelism, and well-orchestrated outreach.

His strategy is a textbook case study in church growth, and his face lights up discussing the church's potential.

"What we have done in the first six months is position ourselves to grow," says Hardin, who adds church committees have worked on everything from prayer and church visits to logos and demographics.

Members voted in February to have two worship services. The 8:30 a.m. service will offer traditional worship and the 11 a.m. service will be more contemporary, with a five-person ensemble instead of a choir, response cards instead of an altar call, and praise choruses instead of hymns.

Hardin is careful, however, to point out that plans to grow a church are useless without God's involvement.

"Church growth is the work of God, however church growth is the work of God through his people."

Joel Gregory "at peace" over resignation

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. (BP) — Joel Gregory says he has experienced great peace since resigning as pastor of First Church, Dallas, and has no malice or bitterness regarding the decision.

Gregory preached three times during the Illinois Evangelism Conference at First Church in Fairview Heights March 11-12, then spoke to the Illinois Baptist, state convention newsjournal, following the conference.

Since his resignation, Gregory said he has preached "all over the country" in churches and conferences and has served as guest lecturer at schools. He still lives in Dallas and plans to continue his "itinerant ministry" for the foreseeable future.

Gregory stressed he has "no malice or bitterness" toward First in Dallas or senior pastor W.A. Criswell. Rather, he said he has a

"sense of sadness" because of the loss of a "great vision and possibility."

"They will go on and I will go on," he added.

What about the future? Gregory

is unsure. "My very philosophy about moves has always been that that's at someone else's initiative," he stated.

"Whatever happens to me is going to be at God's initiative."

Scott, retired MC professor, dies

Charles Watson Scott, 83, a retired Mississippi College professor and administrator, died of heart failure March 12 in Jackson.

Services were held March 15 at First Church, Clinton, with burial in Clinton Cemetery.

A Brookhaven native, Scott spent his childhood in Hattiesburg. He joined the Mississippi College faculty in 1949. In 1952, he developed a curriculum for graduate students to earn masters' degrees in counseling and receive AA certificates to serve as school coun-

selors.

Scott served as MC's guidance and admissions counselor, dean of students, and director of the counseling center. In 1991, the Charles W. Scott Counseling Center was named in his honor.

A deacon of First Church, Clinton, he taught a Sunday School class and served as president of the Brotherhood.

Survivors include: wife, Kathryn; daughter, Kathryn Scoper of Baton Rouge, La.; and two grandchildren.

Thursday, March 18, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Baptists feed refugees in former Yugoslavia with World Hunger funds

Southern Baptists have just released \$250,000 to buy food and \$27,000 to transport seed for former Yugoslavia. With a \$225,000 release last fall, these gifts bring Southern Baptists' total aid for the region to \$502,000. Groups of Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian Baptists distribute the food, sometimes risking their lives. A history of bitterness triggered war last year after ethnically controlled republics declared themselves free nations and Serbs resisted. Baptists have been told they might be most able to help after fighting ceases because they are unrelated to the violence. The people associate the Orthodox with Serbia, Catholics with Croatia, and Islam with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

SERBIA—Serb leaders control most of what was the Yugoslavian central government. As Croatia and Bosnia have broken away, Serbs have waged war against them; many Serbs living in those areas have sought safety by fleeing back to Serbia.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA—The country is 44 percent Muslim, 31 percent Serb and 17 percent Croat. Reports say Muslims are fleeing advancing Serbs, who are flattening villages, killing and raping. Thousands of refugees brave deep snow and go without food to find safe places to resettle. Many have found refuge in Croatia. Food from Baptists has reached Bosnia.

CROATIA—The bulk of the region's 1.5 million refugees are in Croatia; many result from Croatia's own war with Serbia.

Southern Baptist representative Nela Williams lives here and works with war refugees.

Southern Baptist representative Bill Steele lives here, coordinating Southern Baptist relief projects.

Area formerly called Yugoslavia

(BP) MAP GRAPHIC By Marty Croft

Baptist nurses gather April 3 for "Getaway"

The Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) is looking forward to their annual "Spring Getaway" to be held at First Church, Leland, on April 3. The theme centers around "Building Blocks of Ministry."

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The programs starts at 9 a.m. with Marcia Eaves presiding. Denise Windom and Kay Travis, senior nursing students at Mississippi College, will provide special music. The morning inspiration will be led by John Vess, chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson. His message will be "Leading in the Workplace."

There will be three concurrent sessions, beginning at 10 a.m. Jon and Scottie Doler will lead the session entitled, "Leading in Meeting Clients Each Day." Jon Doler is pastor of First Church, Leland, and his wife, Scottie, is a heart/lung transplant client.

Vickie McCall, staff nurse at Methodist Medical Center in Jackson and a volunteer missionary, will lead the session entitled, "Leading in Caring for My Community."

Laverne Barnes, staff nurse at MBCB and Foreign Mission Board volunteer missionary will lead the session entitled "Leading in Meeting Needs Internationally."

Registration deadline for the BNF "Spring Getaway" is Saturday, March 20. Send \$8 per person to BNF Getaway, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.



Vess



Barnes



McCall



The Dolers



Travis (l), Windom

Register now for Youth World Conference

WASHINGTON (BP) — Registration is under way for the 12th Baptist Youth World Conference Aug. 11-15 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Registration is being handled both by the BWA in suburban Washington, and the BWA's agent for the conference, Wilcox Travel, Asheville, N.C. "It is very important that everyone planning to attend the conference register with Wilcox as early as possible," said Paul Montacute, BWA's youth director. A fee of US \$295 will be charged to conference participants from North America, Europe, and other parts of the industrialized world. The fee will help enable many young people from Africa and other developing nations to attend the conference, Montacute said, noting they will pay a reduced fee, which will still be a great sacrifice on their part.



Missions in action

The Brotherhood of Valley Grove Church, Tupelo, recently donated materials and labor to re-roof the home of church member Bessie Tackitt. The project was part of a community missions emphasis program which revitalized the Brotherhood after a lapse of five years. Tommy Tackett is pastor, Valley Grove.

Jesus film circulates through former USSR

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (BP) — The "Jesus" film continues to receive wide circulation in the former republics of the Soviet Union, according to a recent report from Paul Eshleman, director of The Jesus Film Project for Campus Crusade for Christ.

The film has now been translated into 26 Eastern European languages and has premiered in the capital cities of 20 countries and republics including Albania and Mongolia and all of the Muslim regions of Russia. In each country, the minister of education attended the premier showings of the film, opening the doors for the movie to be shown in schools and classrooms throughout the region, Eshleman said.

"One of our great legacies is the 13,000,000 copies of the gospel of Luke we have placed in homes, given free of charge to people who

have never had access to the Bible since the days of the Bolshevik revolution over 70 years ago," Eshleman added.

Eshleman, who began organizing conferences of public school teachers in the waning days of the Soviet Union, says more than 21 conferences of educators have been held, attended by 8,000 educators, each of whom received a copy of the "Jesus" film. Additionally, one-and-a-half million pieces of teaching and follow-up literature have been distributed to the educators.

"We have trained 557 film teams, spread across the 11 time zones of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and have shipped more than 600 sets of equipment. We expect the churches themselves to show the film to more than 30,000,000 people during the next two years," Eshleman said.

"Abstinence is biblical" to be campaign's emphasis

NASHVILLE (BP) — "Abstinence is OK." For unmarried couples, it's biblical. And it is the lifestyle to which Christian teens should abide, a youth ministry consultant said.

That is the message behind the theme, "True Love Waits," a campaign backing the new Christian Sex Education resources being released in April by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In this day and age, "we must challenge teens and young unmarried adults to say, 'Abstinence is OK,'" said Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant in the General Leadership Department of the board's church growth and Sunday School division. Ross, creator of the "24-Hour Counselor" cassettes for youths, participated in the five-

year development of the Christian Sex Education series for parents and children.

The board's new Christian sex education materials and the campaign theme, "True Love Waits," will be introduced to youth ministers at the Youth Ministry National Conference 4, April 19-23 in Nashville, according to Ross. During the conference, youth ministers will be challenged to take the message of abstinence back to parents, teens, and churches.

Jimmy Hester, coordinating editor of the sex education materials, said the Sunday School Board is "joining the bandwagon already happening in the country dealing with the emphasis on abstinence."

"We believe that the only safe sex is abstinence."

Baptist pastor follows Macedonian call to reach his fellow countrymen

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — As Samoil Grozdanov finished his sermon at the 20-member Baptist church in war-torn Macedonia, he invited anyone attending to talk with him after the service.

As the congregation filed out, a young visitor grabbed Grozdanov's hand and said, "I want to be baptized."

His name was Sasa and he was 19 years old. Like many of his peers, he had been searching religions for truth. He tried Buddhism and Transcendental Meditation, but they did not fill his soul, he told Grozdanov.

Near suicide, Sasa decided to try attending church. He went to an Eastern Orthodox church, but the priest did not help him.

Then a friend invited Sasa to attend Grozdanov's church. That Sunday, he heard the gospel for the first time. He told Grozdanov, "This is it. This is what I've been looking for."

"There's been a revival of interest in religion after the communist breakup, especially among young people," Grozdanov said. "Unfortunately, many of them choose the way of cults."

The cults have overwhelmed Macedonia, an unrecognized country of more than 2 million people in what used to be Yugoslavia. Islam encompasses 40% of the country. The Orthodox churches do not preach a clear message of salvation and persecute those who do, Grozdanov said.



Area	: 9928 sq. mi.
Population	: 2,025,000
Capital	: Skopje
Religions	: E. Orthodox Muslim
Language	: Macedonian

The evangelical witness there consists only of a few Methodist churches and two Baptist churches, both of which Grozdanov has served.

But Grozdanov and his family were forced to flee to the United States in October because the threat of war in Macedonia is constant. The medical system has deteriorated, and Grozdanov's 2-year-old nearly died from a tonsil infection because there was no medicine to treat it.

"I felt torn apart between two primary responsibilities," Grozdanov said. "The responsibility to my church and the responsibility to my family. So I just left it to the Lord."

Grozdanov obtained visas for his family through a series of miracles and the help of Wedgwood

Church, Fort Worth, where Grozdanov had been a member when he attended Southwestern Seminary from 1987-90. He took the visas as a sign from God to leave his homeland.

Fleeing the country did not erase the Macedonian call from his heart, however.

Since returning to Fort Worth, Grozdanov has started a Macedonian translation of the Gospel of John. Using the original Greek text, he is fulfilling his Macedonian call.

Grozdanov has completed 14 chapters of John and Wycliffe Bible Translators have agreed to help him translate the rest of the New Testament. In addition, a team of Christians still in Macedonia is working on a Macedonian translation from English.

Grozdanov longs for a revival in Macedonia, where becoming a Christian means almost instant persecution.

"It's a drastic change of lifestyle. It's a drastic decision," he said. "Not like here in the States. You're a Christian here — so what? When you become a Christian in Macedonia, you risk being ostracized by your family. Some are thrown out of their homes, blotted out of the family books."

"It is very difficult to work in an environment as we have in Macedonia, but at the same time it is very rewarding when you see someone come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Redskins coach: success in relationships

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Joe Gibbs is a success.

In 12 years as head coach of the Washington Redskins he amassed a record of 140 wins and 65 losses, leading the Redskins to four Super Bowls and three Super Bowl titles.

In his sophomore season as owner of the Interstate Batteries team on the NASCAR Winston Cup circuit, his car, driven by Dale Jarrett, won the Daytona 500 Feb. 21.

But none of these made Gibbs feel truly successful. Success, Gibbs said, is defined by relationships.

"I think finding Christ as my personal Savior is first. That's my greatest personal accomplishment. Then I think my relationship with Pat and our kids...that's still the driving force in my life."

Gibbs, a member of Columbia Church in suburban Falls Church, Va., offered his testimony to 350 people at a breakfast in Richmond, Va., March 5. Five hours after his appearance in Richmond, Gibbs shocked the sports world fans by announcing his retirement as coach of the Redskins at a news conference in Ashburn, Va.

Christ and family were not always his top priorities, Gibbs said.

Though brought up in a Christian home in North Carolina and a Christian since age 9, as a young adult Gibbs bought into the world's standard for success: "The world told me to be happy you have to gain a position of power. In my case it was to win football games and

make money.

"I bought into that. But I kept feeling that something was missing."

While he was an assistant football coach at the University of Arkansas, moving up through the ranks of

coaching, Gibbs discovered God had a different plan for the world — and his life.

Gibbs rededicated his life to Christ and has been an active church member and unashamed witness for Christ ever since.

Devotional...

Compassion by telephone

By Indy Whitten

On Monday morning, March 1, in the Prayer Ministry Office, I noticed my husband Charles was having a telephone conversation out of the ordinary. He was talking with a missionary of the New Tribes Mission in Brazil. Charles spelled out the last name of Marshall Killcrease.

Killcrease and his family had to leave Brazil after 15 years of service because of the illness of their son, Keith. Killcrease now serves as chaplain of the Oakley Training School for delinquent boys in Raymond. Keith requires constant medical attention; the nearest nursing home to be found is in Durant.

Killcrease, a Baptist, has a true missionary spirit, even while living back in the States. He learned Portuguese in Brazil, but now is convinced Spanish could be more useful to people in the Jackson area.

He called the Baptist Building Prayer Line for help and advice on becoming more proficient in Spanish.

Before hanging up, Charles said, "Let's pray together for your son, Keith. Let's pray in Spanish."

I was standing, working on some material to mail out, but I felt compelled to bow my head and take part in the prayer. I'm sure God doesn't hear any more Spanish than English or some other language, but surely it pleases him that two missionary fathers were praying for a sick child.

Thank God for telephones that can bring people together in times of need.

The Whittens are volunteer Prayer Ministry coordinators, MBCB.

Letters to the editor

Glad for media libraries

Editor:

I am glad that the Alcorn Baptist Media Library Association is going to promote the book: **Promotion Plus** by Bo Prosser. I am sure Danny Ayala will do a good job. Let's keep him in our prayers. (I read "BSSB media consultant will hold promotional conference.")

I hope PLUS (other promotional materials) includes such audiovisual materials as audio cassettes, video cassettes, and Christian television. After thoughtful and prayerful review by any leader, these can be used in ministry in very effective ways for teaching purposes.

Joe Cobb Jr.
Ita Bena

Choose Board support

Editor:

Our WMU does not agree with the WMU leadership in their "new vision" for the future of WMU. We believe their actions are inappropriate and harmful for our auxiliary. They have taken a position against the authority of the Mission Boards which we feel is both divisive and rebellious.

Lottie Moon was acquainted with the feminist attitudes of her day and gave this wise instruction to women's organizations: "In seeking organization, we do not need to adopt plans or methods unsuitable to the view or repug-

nant to the tastes of our brethren. What we want is not power, but simply combination in order to elicit the largest possible giving. Power of appointment and disbursing funds should be left as heretofore, in the hands of the Foreign Mission Board. Separate organization is undesirable, and would do harm, but organization in subordination to the board is the imperative need of the hour" (Allen, Catherine: **The New Lottie Moon Story**, p. 170; Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980). We choose to be in subordination to the Board, for it is as important today as it was in Lottie's day.

Denyse Hines &
Bea Woods, WMU President
Mt. Olive Church
Okolona

Response to Craft

Editor:

In response to Miley Craft's letter of Feb. 25 ("Only the gospels"), a few corrections need to be pointed out. He asked for Christian friends to "straighten him out."

Craft noted that the gospel of John records seven places where Jesus states that he has told his disciples "all that the Father" wanted him to teach. Is he supposing that we have recorded for us in the gospels everything necessary for our faith and practice? Did Jesus not say in John 16:12, "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now?" Should we discount all that the Holy Spirit

inspired these same disciples to teach and write? Were they not writing a part of the canon as surely as John was? What about Jesus' message to John on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation)? Is this not for us?

Finally, Craft asks why we spend so much time studying "Judaism." He is not clear as to whether he is referring to the Old Testament or the Jewish religion. I've never been in an SBC church where they regularly studied Judaism. Jesus said, "I have not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it." The New Covenant, which Craft exalts, has its fullest meaning and significance only when studied with the Old.

Andy Turner
Olive Branch

Alternative action

Editor:

As you flip through the TV channels, you notice a standup comedian relating a tasteless joke about evangelists, as the talk show host chimes in with his approval.

You pick up your morning paper only to read that the same school children who are forbidden to pray in classes are now being forced to undergo lessons in sexual deviation as part of a state-mandated "family life education" course that includes books entitled **Heather Has Two Mommies**.

Christian America has been a house divided for far too long. As such, we have been misrepresented, underrepresented, and outright ignored. Strength comes through unity. The time to stand together as Christians for our God-given rights is right now.

At long last, a grass roots coalition of evangelicals, pro-life Catholics, and their allies has been formed to make government and the media responsive to our concerns. Christian Coalition is an issue-oriented organization, designed to mobilize and train Christians for effective political action. It is our stated purpose to reverse the moral decline and encroaching secularism in our country, and reaffirm our godly heritage.

Join us April 3 for our Mississippi

Christian Coalition Kickoff. Whether you are a political sophisticate or one who does not know what a "primary" is, our Kickoff will inform you and open your eyes to the possibilities for change when Christians stand together.

You would have to search far and wide to find a more esteemed expert on our heritage as a Christian nation than Peter Marshall, our guest speaker for this event. Marshall is a Presbyterian minister who has gained national recognition as an evangelist and as a teacher on Christian growth and maturity. He is co-author of **The Light and the Glory**, and **From Sea to Shining Sea**.

Other invited guests include: Our Honorable Governor, Kirk Fordice, and his wife Pat; Ralph Reed, executive director of Christian Coalition; and Judy Haynes,

deputy assistant to the executive director of Christian Coalition.

The location of the Leadership School seminar included in the Kickoff will be the Holiday Inn North, 1-55 Frontage Road (between Northside and Briarwood drives), Jackson. The sessions will begin promptly at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 3.

Please make this invitation to our Leadership School open to your friends and church members by any manner you can. The fee is \$35 per individual, \$49 per couple, and \$25 per student. You may pre-register by calling Shirley Smith at (601) 825-9238 or Mike Crook at (601) 856-1646, or write to Mississippi Christian Coalition, P.O. Box 1264, Brandon, MS 39043.

Shirley Smith, state director
Miss. Christian Coalition
Brandon

Human Genome Project offers hope and concerns

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Breakthroughs in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease, and thousands of other genetic disorders will result from the 15-year project to map the human genetic blueprint, according to the Southern Baptist geneticist about to assume leadership of the effort.

At the same time, more knowledge about genetic makeup poses a range of moral and ethical dilemmas that must become the focus of discussion among the scientific, ethical, legal, political, and religious communities, Francis Collins told more than 500 participants in the March 1-3 seminar on "Life at Risk: Crises in Medical Ethics" sponsored by the Christian Life Commission.

Collins will move from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he has been professor of internal medicine and human genetics, to direct the National Center for Human Genome Research in Bethesda, Md., later in March. He said he expects to allocate 5% of project funding to research and dialogue on ethical issues.

"I believe the vast majority of research of the Human Genome Project will be beneficial — alleviating suffering, saving lives — all

the things God called us to do," he said.

Collins, who led the team which in 1989 identified the gene causing cystic fibrosis, said the "Human Genome Project promises the ability to do that for thousands of diseases." On the other hand, when people are able to find out they are carriers for cystic fibrosis or at high risk for breast or colon cancer, ethical questions abound.

He called on Christians to begin involvement with genetic issues by becoming informed.

"It is not sufficient to take a stand against something without understanding what that something is," he said. Churches "must get involved in such a way that they are for something, not against something."

Noting that science and the church "don't have a pretty history," Collins said he finds the two "wonderfully compatible."

It is now possible to identify about 85% of the carriers of cystic fibrosis. Also, gene therapy is under way to treat those suffering from the disease, Collins said.

On Aug. 25, 1989, the day the discovery of the cystic fibrosis gene was announced, an 8-year-old girl with the disease wrote in her diary, "Today is the most best day ever in my life."

Lawson writes for BSSB.

WE LOVE MATURE ADULTS! MOST TOURS HAVE SPECIAL 50 PLUS DISCOUNT

FULLY ESCORTED TOURS	<h3>PHONE WITHIN 3 DAYS</h3> <p>OUR 13th YEAR</p>
GET 8 OTHERS & GO HALF PRICE 16 OTHERS & GO FREE	<p>At press time, some space still available for as low as \$2839—AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND & BEAUTIFUL FIJI, SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND—May 8-22. Phone IMMEDIATELY. Lady wants to share a Dbl. Also for ROYAL BRITISH ISLES—May 25-June 9 for \$2478. Lady wants to share a Dbl.... and INTERLUDE IN INDIA & NEPAL—May 28-June 10 for \$3329. Lady wants to share a Dbl.</p>
ALASKA—GET 6 OTHERS & GO HALF PRICE • 12 OTHERS & GO FREE	<p>ALASKA CLASSIC—May 30-June 9. At press time, space open for \$3095 Dbl.... NORTH TO ALASKA - YUKON TERRITORY & BRITISH COLUMBIA—July 29-Aug. 17 for \$2749. Man wants to share Dbl. ALASKA-UNspoiled WILDERNESS—Aug. 13-20 for \$1799 ... And GRAND ALASKA, Sept. 12-23 for \$2748.</p>
INTERNATIONAL • GET 8 OTHERS & GO HALF PRICE • 16 OTHERS & GO FREE	<p>GRAND EXPERIENCES IN SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS, ENGLAND, WALES & IRELAND—July 9-29. At press time, space left for \$2438 Dbl. 21 days. 33 meals. Complete sightseeing. Airfare included.</p>
PARADE THROUGH RUSSIA—EASTERN EUROPE & SCANDINAVIA—Sept. 9-30. 21 days. Some seats available for \$2738 Dbl.	<p>GRAND FOLIAGE IN NEW ENGLAND & COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG - LUXURY MOTORCOACH Oct. 6-16 with Jim & Joy Yates of Yazoo City. \$730 Dbl. 11 days.</p>
GOLDEN ORIENT—SINGAPORE, HONG KONG & PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA—Sept. 12-26 with David Ray. Deluxe. Space left for \$3439.	<p>TREASURES OF HOLY LAND & ROME • \$1998 Nov. 9-17 with Carl & Bobbie Savell of First Baptist, Madison. \$1998 Dbl. if you reserve IMMEDIATELY. All nights in ISRAEL in one Jerusalem hotel. Complete SIGHTSEEING, Breakfast & Dinner DAILY. Christian & Historical sights in ROME. Taxes, airfare, handling fees, portage, skycaps, government charges ALREADY included.</p>
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED	<p>LUXURY MOTORCOACH • GET 8 OTHERS & GO HALF PRICE • 16 OTHERS & GO FREE</p>
RESERVATIONS • FREE BROCHURES • DETAILS	<p>SAN ANTONIO FIESTA OF FLOWERS—April 20-24. Space available for \$390 Dbl.</p>
THE TRAVEL CLUB	<p>TULIP FESTIVAL IN PELLA, IOWA—THE AMANA COLONIES & OZARKS—May 3-8. Few seats left for \$440 Dbl.</p>
362-0045 • TOLL FREE 1-800-841-8991	<p>TULIP SPECTACULAR IN HOLLAND, MICHIGAN—May 10-16. Kentucky, Indianapolis, Chicago & St. Louis also featured. Space open for \$470 Dbl.</p>
329 North Main Plaza • Box 9445, Jackson, MS 39286-9445	<p>SPRINGTIME IN SAVANNAH, CHARLESTON, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, GOLDEN ISLES & CALLAWAY GARDENS—May 25-30. Very LIMITED space open. \$439 Dbl.</p>
REQUEST FREE '93 SCHEDULE	<p>WE CAN ARRANGE TRIPS FOR YOUR CHURCH GROUP • WITH OR WITHOUT MOTORCOACH •</p>
	<p>NEW FOR MISSISSIPPI—We're developing INSPIRATIONAL TOURS with emphasis on FELLOWSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & SIGHTSEEING. Would like to hear from pastors & laymen. Contact David Ray.</p>

NEED A FUNDRAISER?

BUY-ONE-GET-ONE-FREE

Coupon Books!

50% PROFIT!

NO RISK! NO INVENTORY!

SUCCESS!

Crossgates Baptist

Daniel Memorial Baptist

Parkway Baptist

For More Information, Call:

JOHN SAXON

(601) 366-8748

1440 Old Square Rd., North Jackson

Urgent Alaska Request

Mt. Redoubt Baptist Church near Kenai, Alaska, has requested builders to help work on its building this summer. Olyn Roberts, Louisville pastor, has accepted its invitation for assistance, along with the building project at Soldotna. The churches are located about 15 miles apart. Plans are for flight departure from Jackson to Anchorage, July 5, with bus travel from Anchorage to Kenai. Return flights from Kenai to Jackson leave July 16. For more information, call Olyn Roberts at (601) 773-5670. Volunteers with campers are also welcome.

Names in the News

The Spokesmen will be concert at Calvary Church, Durant, March 20, at 7 p.m. Also on program will be Jerry and Spin Smith.

Rachel Fly, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Fly, was presented a certificate and a ten year Sunday School perfect attendance pin by First Church, Coffeeville, on Feb. 21. Wilford Harbour is Sunday School director and Truman Scarborough is pastor.



Fly

Stanley B. Barnett was honored with a reception on Feb. 28 upon his retirement and four years as pastor of North Calvary Church, Philadelphia. Barnett has pastored for almost 43 years and preached over 225 revivals. He plans to continue in the work of the ministry and is available for supply, interim pastorate, revivals, and Bible studies. He can be reached at Rt. 1, Box 41, Philadelphia, MS 39350 or telephone 656-4493.



Barnett

Danny Blurton, Clinton, will be presented in a graduate trumpet recital by the Department of Music at Mississippi College on March 30 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. He is a student of John Hanbery, professor of music and director of bands. His accompanist will be Carol Durham.

W.W. Holifield Day was observed on Feb. 14 with a fellowship meal at Phalti Church, Jefferson Davis Association. Holifield and his wife, Janelle, were presented a silver tray by the church for their four years of service. Program personalities included Bill Clark, Martha Carr, Rose Myrick, Jeffrey Myrick, Cliff Jones, and



Temple Church, Myrtle, recently ordained John Miles and Tony Bell as deacons. Griff Walker, pastor, led the ordaining council and James Travis preached the ordination message. Pictured are Miles, Bell, Walker, and Travis.

Kimble Clark. Tim Moore is pastor of Phalti Church.

Briar Hill Church, Florence, celebrated the 13 years leadership of its pastor, Wilson Winstead and his wife, Bobbie, on Feb. 28. J.C. Renfro, director of missions, Rankin Association, was speaker for the morning service. Music was provided by Winstead's three daughters. A covered dish lunch was served after services. A "roast" for Winstead was held in the afternoon. The Winsteds were presented a Certificate of Appreciation, a love offering, and money tree.

Scott Forbus, singer and songwriter, will be in concert at Castlewoods Church, Brandon, March 21 at 6 p.m. A native of Amory, Forbus has a new recording out: "Lost or Found." A love offering will be taken.

Bill Baker and First Church, Clinton, celebrated Baker's 20th anniversary as pastor on March 14. Baker and his wife, Jill, were honored with a Sunday afternoon reception. C.Z. Holland, church member, wrote a tribute to the pastor, saying, "Fortunate is the First Baptist Church to have had Pastor Baker for 20 years, who is so guileless and so sensitive to the spirits of others."

YOUNG

From page 3

carried out. That comes through the president and the administration. The trustees are to be a sounding board for him for what's happening out there."

He added trustees are "trusted with the responsibility of our denomination, with seeing that this institution or any entity that's SBC functions according to the purpose for which it was chartered...."

— Woman's Missionary Union: "They're an autonomous body. They're not connected to (the SBC) in any bylaw-kind of way. They've been an auxiliary."

"Evidently their leadership feels that they need to be ecumenical — that they need to be open to other missionary groups. I personally

think that's going to be very, very difficult. I believe that we need an arm that's exclusively ours in SBC life."

— Southwestern Seminary: "I have so much confidence in this institution, in the faculty, in what's being taught here. I had two boys go through here and they had a blue-chip experience. Both of them came out with great images of the school and a great love and appreciation for faculty and what happened here. Southwestern has been product-driven and I think this is the key," he said.

— The Foreign Mission Board presidency: Young said "we're fairly close. I think it will be someone that I believe most everybody will say 'Amen' when the selection comes down. I think we're close and we've just got a little more praying to do."

Covington County men honored for efforts

Georgia Pacific Corporation has recognized two employees for their work in community development.

Walter Lee, assistant pulp mill superintendent, and George Hayman, E & I foreman, work on a family life center and multipurpose building two nights a week and also use their vacation time to move the project towards completion.

Lee and his family and Hayman and his family, respectively, attend Prentiss and White Sand Churches.

Thirty-three churches in Covington and Jefferson Davis counties have been involved in the building. The projected completion date is 1994.

Plans for the family life center located in Covington County began 10 years ago, with actual construction beginning eight years ago. The 125' x 132' auditorium was recently filled to capacity for a Christmas Cantata in which 11 churches were represented.

— Excerpted from The Top Liner, Georgia Pacific Corporation magazine

Oakhurst Baptist Church

Clarksdale, Miss., &

Dr. Tommy Tutor, pastor, invite all former members to the 40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, April 4, 1993

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. worship, Dr. Bill Causey Executive Director, MBCB
12:30 p.m. "Lunch, Christian Activities Bldg.
2 p.m. Anniversary Celebration Jerry Clower

*Lunch RSVP

For reservations and information call (601) 624-8551

Staff Changes

Briarwood Church, Meridian, has called Jerry D. Bingham as pastor effective Jan. 31. A native of Kilmichael, he received his education at Clarke College and Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Neshoba Church.



Bingham

Pleasant Hill Church, Bogue Chitto, has called Stephen T. Dean as minister of music, education, youth, and associate pastor effective Jan. 24. A native of Sylacauga, Ala., he is a graduate of the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Ala., and is in his third year at New Orleans Seminary.

Temple Church, Myrtle, has called Chris Twilley of Ripley as minister of music and youth effective Feb. 21. A native of Arkabutla, he is a student at Blue Mountain College. His previous place of service was Arkabutla Church. Twilley served as a summer missionary to Russia in 1992.

North Greenwood, Greenwood, has called Jeff Chamblee as minister of music. He is a graduate of Delta State University and Southwestern Seminary. A native of Grenada, his previous place of service was First Church, Hazlehurst, Ga. Jim Phillips is pastor of North Greenwood Church.

Pine Crest Church, Star, has

called Brian Rowe as pastor. He received his education from William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. Rowe served as interim pastor at Pine Crest Church before he was called for full time service on Jan. 31.

Gregory Stanford has accepted a position as minister of education/youth at Dorsett Shoals Church, Douglasville, Ga. Stanford served on the staff of First Church, Magee, for 11 years.

Revival Dates

High Hill Church (Neshoba): March 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mickey Trammel, evangelist; Chris Aldridge, pastor.

Revival Results

Jericho Church, Baldwin (Union): Feb. 28-Mar.3; David Davis, Pearland, Texas, evangelist; Mark Garrett, New Albany, music; 35 professions of faith; Neil Davis, pastor.

BRYAN HOLY LAND TOUR

November 26-December 4, 1993

Travel to Tel Aviv, Tiberias, Upper Galilee, Jerusalem, and Masada.

Departures from Jackson, Nashville, New Orleans, Dallas or Memphis

Call us today for a brochure! Travel benefits available for Group Coordinator's call our office for details. 981-1345 (800) 872-8522 (MS)

Bryan TOURS, INC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

RANKIN COUNTY CHURCH needs portable buildings to house growing Sunday School. Contact Steve Stubblefield, P.O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39043.

BIG TOP GOSPEL TENTS, all sizes. Open Air Ministries. (318) 939-2239.

EXPERIENCED CHURCH PEWS for sale. Light oak stain with red padded seat. Harmony Church, New Albany, (601) 534-5585.

FOR SALE: 1971 GMC 28-passenger, 327 V8 church bus. Second Baptist Church, 203 Lee St.,

Kosciusko, MS 39090; phone (601) 289-4317.

THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in Columbus, Miss., is presently looking for a part time minister of music and youth. Any individual who is interested should mail a resume to: Community Baptist Church, Search Committee Chairman, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus, MS 39702 or they may call 327-5306 or 328-2105.

PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEM. Ideal for small church, fellowship hall or singing group. Call James Crittenden at (318) 539-3578.

Revival Dates

Shubuta (Clarke): March 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, New Prospect, Brookhaven, evangelist; Ron Mercer, Stonewall, music; Timothy D. Myers, pastor.

Whitesand, Prentiss: March 21-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowling, Brandon, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, music; Charles Wesley, pastor.

Emmanuel, Grenada: March 21-24; services, noon and 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Jeff Chamblee, North Greenwood, Greenwood, music; Clarence Cooper Jr., pastor.

Peoples, Ripley: March 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Sturm, Oklahoma, evangelist; Tony B. Monk, pastor.

New Prospect (Northwest): March 21-24; homecoming revival; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Mobley, Southaven, evangelist; David High, Hernando, music; Joe T. Lusby, pastor.

First, Leland: March 21-24; Spiritual Enrichment; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Barry Corbett, First, Kosciusko, guest speaker; Ed Brashier, First, Louisville, music;

WINE

From page 2

thew 18:6-7: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!" In addition, you will have knowingly contributed to the spiritual and moral decadence of the next generation. No wonder the apostle warned, "It is not good to drink wine" (Rom. 14:21, NIV).

Cooper is director of denominational relations, seminars, and conferences, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

PUBLISH YOUR FAMILY OR CHURCH HISTORY

Share your research with others by publishing a book.

Publish your Church History or Family History for Reference and Enjoyment

Attractive volumes make great gifts for family, friends, and church members.

For More Information, Call:

NORTHPOINTE PUBLISHING
1440 Old Square Rd., Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 366-8748

Jon Doler, pastor.

Oak Grove, Benton: March 21-24; 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday and 7:30 nightly; Curtis "Mickey" Armstrong, Kosciusko, evangelist; Sunday, 1 p.m., concert by The Gospel Messengers of Florence; Dale Nowell, pastor.

Mt. Olive, Smithdale: March 26-28; youth revival; evening services, 7 p.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday; Robert Toney, Marion County, formerly from Mt. Pleasant, evangelist; Phillip Robertson, youth pastor/music, Milldale, Zachary, La., music; Laurie Wick-er, Calvary, Zachary, La., pianist; Dan Fenn, Thompson, Smithdale, organist; Irene Johnston, youth minister; Shelly Johnston, music; Ronnie Jones, pastor.

Faith, Hickory Flat: March 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Futral, pastor, Falkner Church, evangelist; Johnny Thompson, music; W.G. Dowdy, interim pastor.

Christ, Greenwood: March 21-24; 7 p.m.; Stefan Eubanks, Foster, Ala., evangelist; Duane Jensen, Carrollton, music; L.D. Brown Jr., pastor.

Poplar Springs (Itawamba): March 21-26; 7 p.m.; Kenny Digby, evangelist; Terry Paul Graham, pastor.

Perry County Association: Old Time Tent Revival near railroad crossing, New Augusta; March 21-26; special music, 6:45 p.m.; services, 7 p.m.

Oak Grove, Mize: March 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Buddy Keyes, Laurel, evangelist; Wilmer Holifield, Taylorsville, music.

SBC

From page 3

Committee vice president serving as convention manager. Messengers have registered for 64% of the 8,000 rooms reserved for the SBC by the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, he said. Requests for SBC housing forms should be directed to the SBC Convention Housing Manager, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 244-2355.

FM Listening Devices

Improves clarity of sound in home, school or church

Under \$200 1-489-4628

ADG P.O. Box 955 Pontotoc, MS 38863
Complies with Americans with Disabilities Act

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery
Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843

In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

We remodel & paint

Thursday, March 18, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2

Just for the Record

Faith Church, Starkville, will conduct its Spring Bible Conference April 4-7. Guest speaker will be Ron Dunn; Jamal Badry will lead the music. Services will be held Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly.

Bolivar Association recently held an associational prayer conference under the leadership of Charles and Indy Whitten, volunteer prayer ministry coordinators for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Gary Reichenbah, pastor of Yale Street Church, Cleveland, and associational prayer coordinator, organized the meeting at Skene Church. Twenty-seven people attended.

Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union will host "Missions Madness," April 24, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for junior and senior high school age youths. Activities will include games, competitions, testimonies of missionary Cathy Pratt and Curtis and Keith Conner, missions emphasis, and Christian music. For more information, call the BSU at (601) 323-5761.

The National Convocation on Christian Education will be held on the campus of the University of Richmond, Richmond, Va., June 3-5. Sponsored by Smyth & Helwys, publishers of Formations curriculum materials, the convocation will feature workshops and lectures. Worship will be led by Don Nixon and the choir of Northminister Church, Monroe, La. Cost of the convocation is \$125 (double) and \$135 (single). For more information, contact Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207, phone (800) 747-3016.

With several time slots set aside for "Introduction of Business and Resolutions," Woman's Missionary Union may face scrutiny of decisions by its executive board in January to broaden the scope of the auxiliary's missions education efforts beyond SBC entities.

In February, Foreign Mission Board trustees posed tough questions about WMU's direction in a dialogue with the organization's leaders and the SBC Executive Committee passed a resolution voicing appreciation for WMU's 105 years of missions support but also urging the organization to "make clear its singular commitment" to the SBC and its missions boards.

WMU, in its January actions, voted to provide missions education materials to non-SBC groups such as Baptist moderates' Cooperative Baptist Fellowship "at their request." WMU leaders have maintained, however, that WMU will promote only the yearly FMB and HMB missions offerings in Southern Baptist churches, not a competing CBF offering initiated in 1992.

Toalston writes for Baptist Press.



Meadville Church, Franklin County, recently held a recognition service for its GAs and Acteens. GAs (above, left to right) honored were: Lacy Oglesby, April Smallwood, Ashley Stephens, Britton Lewis, Allan Southerland, and Jessica McDowell. Ilene Southerland is GA leader.

Acteens (below) honored were: Julie Stephens and Marjie Griffin. Sandi Stephens is Acteen leader.



Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recently held a note burning ceremony to celebrate the retirement of the debt on its educational and activities building. Those who took part in the ceremony are pictured, left to right: Dean Howell, Robert Harvey, Raymond Smith, and Clyde Rutherford, trustees for the church; Roy T. Myers, pastor; Marshall Stevens, building committee chairman; Frances Smith, building committee; Michael Smith, treasurer; Cheryl Williamson, building committee; and Charles Hilbun, contractor. A church-wide reception was also held that day for Myers, on his last Sunday as pastor.



Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, recently dedicated its new education and fellowship building. High attendance day was observed, with a record set of 347 in Sunday School. Above, Clark Stewart, pastor, presents a plaque of appreciation to leaders who served as committee chairmen for the building program. They are (left to right): Larry Bell, building committee chairman; Jim Farmer, Challenge to Build chairman; and Charlie Sojourner, trustee chairman.

Uniform

The light of the world



By Chuck Pourciau
John 9:1-12, 35-41

I have been amazed at the recent medical advances in the area of the human eye. A new form of surgery can eliminate forever in some patients the need for contacts or glasses. Eye surgeries are more painless and the recovery time shorter than ever before. Yet despite the progress many eye problems and diseases remain a mystery.

In John 9 Jesus did not need medical technology to heal a man who had been blind from birth. John's primary purpose in relating this account was not to amaze us at the power of Jesus to heal people physically. John's primary purpose was to show us that Jesus can heal man spiritually. He gives sight to the spiritually blind. He is the light of the world.

Jesus can bring light into the darkest of situations (vv. 1-7). The account began with the disciples attempting to assign responsibility for the man's blindness. Jesus brushed that attempt aside and healed the man. The disciples were looking for someone to blame, but Jesus was concerned with who he could change. The disciples saw the problem. Jesus saw the opportunity. We must realize that Jesus can bring light into the darkest of situations. By doing that we will enable ourselves to look beyond the problem to the opportunity. We need to be able to see people the way Jesus sees them. Then we need to communicate to them that no darkness is so dark that God cannot bring his light to it.

The light of Jesus is a result of man's obedience (vv. 8-12). The healed man received a great deal of attention. The healing was so miraculous that some even denied that it was the same man. That is the case when the light of Jesus dispels the darkness of the world. The change is so radical that some will have a difficult time believing their eyes and ears. And the light of the world is the only thing that can bring about a change that provides complete fulfillment.

In verse 10 the healed man was asked how his eyes were opened. Basically he said, "I did what he told me to do." Obedience was the key, and this underscores the importance of being obedient to the Word of God. We do not increase the light in our lives by merely hearing the Word. We walk in the light when we *do* the Word.

The light of Jesus is a result of man's faith (vv. 35-38). The man's second encounter with Jesus was even more significant than his first. He went from believing *about* Jesus to believing *in* Jesus. Herschel Hobbs put it this way: "Now Jesus had opened the eyes of his soul." The immediate result was that the healed man worshiped Jesus.

Man can believe everything the Bible says *about* Jesus and never know Jesus. Man receives the light of Jesus when he trusts *in* Jesus as his personal Savior.

Also, the natural result of receiving the light is worship. After man is redeemed, his life can be summed up with one word, worship. All of life should be an expression of our worship of the Father.

The light of Jesus can be misunderstood by religious people (vv. 39-41). This healing caused quite a stir, and the Pharisees did all they could to discount it. They questioned the healed man and his parents at length. All the man could say is all we can say when someone tries to discount our claims concerning Jesus: "I was blind but now I see." The Pharisees finally became so disgusted with him that they branded him a sinner and threw him out. Because of their closed minds the Pharisees pronounced judgment on themselves.

We must be careful that we do not allow our religion to blind us to the light. Everything we do must be evaluated in the light of Jesus Christ and not in light of culture, society, or tradition.

I was once on a tour of a cave when the guide asked us if we knew the true color of a cave. He turned off the lights to show us the true color was black. He then lit a single match, and I was amazed at how much darkness was dispelled by that single match.

You may sell yourself short and wonder what difference you alone can make in such a dark world. You will be amazed at what a difference you can make if you just let your single light shine. It's easy to curse the darkness, but it's life-changing to light a match.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book

Assurance for God's anointed



By Guy A. Hughes
Psalms 23, 20, 110

Long ago, Jesus Christ said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Ever since, many of his well-meaning followers have endeavored to make his kingdom of this world. We must proclaim the gospel to the entire world! We must attempt to bring every soul to Christ! Yet, we must realize a fact — the kingdom of God will never exist in this world as we know it. The kingdom of God is coming. Until then, this world (and the nations which comprise it) is on a collision course towards judgment. Refusal to recognize the lordship of Christ will result in disaster.

The futility of opposing God's king (2:1-3). This Psalm reveals a conspiracy against the Lord and his anointed. Nations and peoples plot to destroy the plan of God. The word "rage" literally describes a horse snorting as it enters into battle. There is a deliberate, obstinate, and ongoing opposition to the Lord's work on this earth. What is their purpose? "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The chains and fetters referred to are God's restraints for our corrupt appetites and passions. Men love to oppose religion because they are impatient with the restraints and obligations. The Ten Commandments are a threat to their rebellious nature. However, their plots and schemes are futile. God laughs at such prideful arrogance (v. 4).

The decree of the Lord (2:7-11). God did not pronounce Jesus as King of Kings by some sudden resolve or trial experiment. His plan for the salvation of mankind was eternal in the making and sprang from divine wisdom. This messianic reference in verse 7 confirms the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and solidifies his right to be King. This verse was quoted three times in the New Testament (Acts 13:33, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5) to prove the superiority of Jesus. God promised the king absolute victory and control over the nations in verses 8-9. He then warns the kings of the earth to act wisely for they must one day answer to the King of Kings.

Request for the Lord's help for the king (20:15). This Psalm was a prayer, by the people, for the earthly King David. We find their prayers focused on three things. First, they prayed God would be with the king during troubled times (v. 1-2). Second, they asked God to accept the king's offerings (v. 3). This request was a desire on their part for the king to have a personal walk and spiritual relationship with God. Third, they prayed for God to guide the king's plans (v. 4). We would do well to pray these three requests for our nation's leaders.

Assurance of the Lord's help for the king (20:6-9). Verse 7 reminds us the strength of any king does not depend on his nation's military capabilities, but on the people's willingness to trust in the Lord. The Lord has promised help to the king who seeks his face. Salvation does not rest upon any earthy ruler and his programs, but upon the Lord and his decrees.

The Lord as King (110:1-2). Jesus quoted verse 1 as evidence of his kingship (Mark 12:35-37). Peter also quoted this verse in his sermon at Pentecost. In this Psalm, the earthly King David looked ahead to the heavenly King Jesus, who would descend to earth to defeat God's enemies and rule forever. On that day, no vote will be taken. Democrats nor Republicans can win. The outcome has already been decided. T.Z. Koo said, "The kingdom of God does not exist because of your effort or mine. It exists because God reigns. Our part is to enter his kingdom and bring our life under his sovereign will."

His kingdom is coming; Oh, tell me the story! God's banner exalted shall be; The earth shall be filled with his wonder and glory. As waters that cover the sea.

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work

Planning for the future



By Laura Russell
Genesis 41: 28-31, 33-40

Preparing for the future is something God expects us to do. Some people find the prospect of planning boring and unnecessary. But planning is a responsibility, not an option. Our planning and prosperity can be a great witness to unbelievers, but only if we plan for the future using God's guidance. If you put God's desires at the center of your planning, he will never disappoint you.

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream (vv. 28-31). When Pharaoh's cupbearer was freed from prison, he forgot about Joseph. It was two years before Joseph had an opportunity to be freed (41:1). Our most important opportunities may come when we least expect them. Joseph was brought quickly from the dungeon and before Pharaoh with no warning. He had no time to prepare, but because of his right relationship with God, he was ready when Pharaoh questioned him. We must be ready for opportunities by getting to know more about God, then we can call on him when opportunities come our way.

Joseph explains that it is God that enables him to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. He then explains the meaning of the seven fat cows and seven full ears of corn, and the seven sinister cows and seven blasted ears. The meaning was seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine.

Joseph proposes a plan (vv. 33-36). After interpreting Pharaoh's dream, Joseph gave the king a survival plan for the next 14 years. He suggests that a food administrator should be selected and set over the land of Egypt, and that overseers should be appointed throughout Egypt. These overseers should see to it that one fifth of the produce of the land was stored up during the seven years of plenty as a reserve for the seven years of famine.

Joseph went beyond mere interpretation and gave some down-to-earth advice. No time was to be lost. A wise man of superior ability would have to be found to supervise agricultural production, gather the stores of grain, and distribute the stored resources. The position would demand the best man the kingdom could afford.

Pharaoh accepts Joseph's proposal (v. 37). Fortunately, Pharaoh was a wise man. He was pleased by Joseph's proposal and accepted it. At last Joseph had come to the attention of the king. His ability to interpret dreams had brought him before the king in a favorable light. The situation turned out well for Joseph and for all the people of the land. Just as in the case of Joseph, when we make wise plans for the future, others will benefit from and recognize the value of those plans.

Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge (vv. 38-40). The king was impressed by Joseph's dream interpretation and by his wise suggestions. He recognized the guiding inspiration of God in the life of Joseph, so he appointed him to be the official who would do what he suggested. The Pharaoh established an official position for Joseph and gave him great authority. Joseph was second in authority only to the king himself.

Joseph rose quickly to the top, from prison walls to Pharaoh's palace. His training for this important position involved first being a slave and then a prisoner. In each situation, he learned the importance of serving God and others. Whatever your situation, no matter how undesirable, consider it part of your training program for serving God.

Planning for the future is time well spent. Worrying about tomorrow is time wasted. Careful planning is thinking ahead about goals, steps, and schedules. It is also trusting in God's guidance. When done well, planning can help alleviate worry. As we plan for the future, may we, like Joseph, be a faithful, trusting people, and a people in whom the spirit of God lives.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Dec. 1, 1992 -
Dec. 31, 1992

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Jimmie Taylor Mims
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Brasher
Mrs. L.L. Mims
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Peters
Mrs. Robert Misher
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cole
Peg Misher
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland Jr.
Mrs. Ina Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wiley
Ruth Sunday School, FBC Tupelo
Sr. Moustre Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Grantham
L.O. (Sonny) Moore Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack L. Marshall
C.S. Gosselin and M/M F.G. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mr. Walter Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Clyde "Bo" Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B. Fortenberry
Mr. Gene Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight G. Williams
Janice Morris
Dume, Wanda & Garrett Bradford
M/M Harry Little Ashley & Rachel
Travis Morrow
Morgan Chapel Baptist Church
Mr. Henry B. Moss Sr.
Mrs. Henry Moss Sr. & Children
William R. Moss
Mrs. Joan S. Moss
Mrs. Myrtle Myers
Mrs. W.H. Watson
Mrs. Alberta Scott Neal
Mrs. Sarah N. Shaw
Hattie Nettles
Concord Baptist Church
Mrs. Hattie Nettles
Mrs. Louise Wimer
Mr. Jack Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton
Telford B. Norman Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Davis
Nelson Novell
Mrs. F. M. Caperton
Dale Oakes
Mr. & Mrs. W. Graham
Mrs. Virginia Oakley
Mr. Michael Rubenstein
Mrs. Imogene Ogilvie
Mr. & Mrs. Don Healy
Mr. Lynn Howell
Johnny D. Oatis
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pajewski C.L.U.
Mrs. Bessie Overall
Mrs. Mildred Carter
Jim Ray Owen
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Snell
Mrs. Ollie Moss Owens
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Griffith
Mr. Charles Palmer
Mrs. Floyd Griffin
Mr. Villa Purdie
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Nelson
Mr. Ray Parker
Mrs. Jewel Segun
Mr. & Mrs. T.A. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. M.E. Deves Jr.
Mrs. Lucille Parkman
Mr. & Mrs. James McIntosh
Arthur Partridge
Johnny & Earl Adcock
Judy & Robert Adcock
Joyce & Bill Thomas
Bruce Padley
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L. Haynes
The parents and son of M/M Henry
Peebles
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peebles Jr.
Mr. Harold Peoples
Miss Christine Hollis
Mrs. Gertrude Bell Perry
Mrs. T.I. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton Jr.
The Sallie Pitt Group, FBC Grenada
Herman Flippie
WMU Day Group, Centerville BC
Mrs. Elmo McKay
Mrs. Clara Pickler

Mrs. Frances R. Lester
Maude Mullens Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bruce Garner
Herchell Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Merle A. Riley
Hershel Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Mobley
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Speed
Mr. Moody Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Powell
James L. Pope
Annie Pearl
Mrs. Patricia Triplett
Mrs. Rutha Priest
Ms. Julia Mullins
Mrs. Rutha Priest
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Tyson
Mr. James Robert Putnam
Mrs. George E. Hart Jr.
Chris Randall
Mrs. W.B. Brockenridge
Mrs. Olive M. Rebold
Mary Eleanor Morrow Randall
Ruth SS, FBC Eupora
Mrs. S.J. Ratliff
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Carter
Mr. Joe Rayburn
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton
Mr. J.C. Redd
Misses Honor & Mamie J. Ingram
Wilroy (Bill) Reid
Mrs. Mary Ruth Finch
Ms. Martha Slaughter
Mr. Roger Rials
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hardy
Mrs. Florence Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Mrs. Belle Hood Riddell
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jack Hunt
Mrs. Belle Hood Riddell
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Stevenson Jr.
Mrs. Sam Riddell
Mr. & Mrs. Van D. Stone Jr.
R. Hanna Riggle
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Liddell
Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Riggins
Belford Robbins
Robert & Gwen Fortenberry
Mr. Hub Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Charles N. Spain
Mrs. Vera Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Van Norman
Ken Rodgers
Mr. Norman Weatherby Jr.
Kenneth Lee Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Powers
Mrs. Fannie M. Scott
Mr. Brinkley Rodgers
Dandy SS, North Greenwood BC
Mr. Ken Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Ellison
Mr. & Mrs. Wilburn White
Mr. Susan Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Merle A. Riley
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Kirby
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Mobley
Mrs. Evelyn Rutland
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Powell
Shelley Lynn Sandifer
Mr. W.L. Sandifer
Rays Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H. Mapp Jr.
Mr. W.A. Sanderson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul I. Jaggan
Mr. & Mrs. Myrl McCormick
Grady Sargent
Mrs. James E. Trammel Jr.
Mable P. Schaub
Ms. Imogene Palmer
Roy B. Schaffer
Mrs. Geraldine Schaffer
Mr. J.W. Scott
Miss Lorraine Norman
Mr. W.F. Scott
Miss Lorraine Norman
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Powers
Frances Schuman
Mr. Dudley Williamson
Mrs. Fannie Power Seymour
Mrs. Pearl Sanders
Jack Sherrer
Ms. Penny Wallace
Mrs. Judith (Elsie) Shirley
Mrs. Thelma Bass Sargent & Family
Mr. B. Floyd Simmons
Dr. Elmo M. Curtis
Mrs. Frances Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Ervyn Wilson
Mr. Page H. Simpson

Mrs. Floyd Griffin
Howard Skinner
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peebles Jr.
Mrs. Frances Sledge
Mrs. Lizette M. Brewster
Mrs. Carla Smallwood
Ms. Julia Mullins & Family
Mrs. Thelma Woodyear
P.L., Linda & Dusty Matthews
Bernice Elizabeth Smith
Ms. Marguerite Vance
Eleanor Smith
Mr. & Mrs. W.K. McCaskill
Harry Grimes Smith
Mrs. Eugenia A. Eskridge
Marvin C. Smith
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Millard F. Smith
Smith Family Reunion
Mr. J.V. Smith
Mrs. J. V. Smith
Mrs. Dewey Smith
Miss Mary Alice Jolly
Mr. & Mrs. John Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Henry N. Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. D.O. Thoms
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Walley
Mrs. Elender Smith
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Adams
Mrs. Elender Smith
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon
Rudolph Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Neel
Virginia Smith
Mrs. Myra Simmons
Mrs. Perry Smithers
Mr. & Mrs. Roy W. Wolfe
Mr. & Mrs. Bob J. Snell
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Snell
Ann DeLoach Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Snyder
Cox Sunny
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Barker
Amy Sprayberry
Mr. George Sprayberry
John W. Sproule
Mrs. Dorothy Sproule Oberschmidt
Jack Stallings
Cassella Baptist Church
Mrs. Mary Charlotte Standrod
Mr. & Mrs. Ruble Cochran
Edwin Stanley
Ms. Ireta W. Graham
Mrs. Charlotte Standrod
Leroy, Sandra & Morgan Peoples
Ted Starnes
Mr. & Mrs. Milburn Starnes
Mrs. Ima Jean Starnes
Mrs. Edith Alldridge
Mrs. Elizabeth Starnes
Mrs. Sam B. Starnes
Mrs. R.J. Starnes
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Neal
Joanna Starnes
Mrs. W.E. Maudith
Katherine Ervin Starnes
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Keating
Mrs. Kathryn Starnes
Fidell SS, FBC Crystal Springs
Mr. J.T. Stedwell
Ms. Ellen Wells
Mr. Ruel L. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer L. Roberts
Arnold Sutton
Mrs. Emma Belle Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. Joanne Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mendich
Louis Sylvester
Mrs. Nancy McGraw
Mr. R.E. Talbert
Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Touchstone Jr.
Mrs. Lorraine Tove
Miss Kathy Tove
Jan Q. Tatham Sr.
Mrs. James T. Callicut
Bert Stewart Taylor
Mr. Marvin E. Taylor
Mrs. Addie Taylor
James & Evelyn Sandling
Ray and Benj. Thomas
M/M Billy Smith & Family
Darin Thompson
Herman, Sharon & Christopher
Cots
Dr. W.B. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
G. Dan Thompson
The Jerry Thompson Family



Staff and children at The Baptist Children's Village take advantage of the ARTS AND CRAFTS time provided for them by our recreation coordinator (Doug Duncan) and Activities Coordinator (Bob Catlett). Pictured are Linda Shaver (top) and Clara Stephens (bottom) painting ceramics. Their pieces will be fired in a kiln donated to The Village by North Oxford Baptist Church.

Mrs. Ralph Lilly
Myrtle L. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Ray Moffett
& Leah
James E. "Billy" Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Butler
Siloson Baptist Church
Clarence Toler
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Owens
Judge James A. Turvey Sr.
Mrs. Ruby S. Buggan
Ms. Julia Mullins & Family
Marguerite Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Al M. Henry Jr.
Mother of Mrs. Rogers Turner
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Carter
Dr. Charles Tyler
W.M.U., Newnan Baptist
Association
Mr. & Mrs. Jennie F. Baggett
Dr. Elmo M. Curtis
Mrs. Alice P. Miloy
Miss Grace Van Norman
Miss Christine Hollis
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Mrs. Florence Vance
Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Hamman
Mrs. Earl L. Vanamont
Mr. & Mrs. Don Healy
Mother L. Virdon, III
Mr. & Mrs. James Blount
Mrs. Peggy Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Sprayberry
Ruth SS, FBC Eupora
Mrs. Percy (Nora) Waggoner
Mrs. Marguerite C. Given
The Jack Handage Family
Mr. & Mrs. Landon E. Brown
Ms. Evelyn Walden
Dennis & Becher Moffett & Leah
Mr. Martin Walker
Emory Baptist Church
Mr. Robert M. Walker
Dr. & Mrs. W.C. Anderson
Mrs. Lucille Walker
Lavan Seals SS, Macedonia BC
Mrs. Myrtle Walley
Mr. & Mrs. D.O. Thoms
Elizabeth Walls
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore

Mr. James Eagle Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Danny E. Hamilton
Patricia Hansen Ward
Jodi Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Robison
Steve Ward
Dr. Elmo M. Curtis
Mrs. Ruth Wardlaw
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pajewski C.L.U.
Bill Ware
Mr. & Mrs. Jarvis Deussen
Mr. & Mrs. Max Warren
Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Scruggs
Mr. John Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. David Jenkins
Sanya Robbins Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. Dan King
Mrs. Eva Elderson Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Pugh
Matthew Woodson
Employees of Union County
Wacker
Dorothy Walls
Mr. E.F. Wells
The Father of Beulah West
Mr. & Mrs. David Jenkins
Ben Wathen
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Charles O. White III
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Crowl
Kenneth Ray (Rock) White
Mrs. Mary Hudgins
Mrs. Charlotte Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. George Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. George Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy D. Myers
Mrs. John White
Mrs. J.B. Lewis
Mrs. Mattie Huffine White
Mr. C.E. Sellen
Eric Whitley
Mrs. Ruby A. Sherman
Mrs. Mary Billy Wilkinson
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer L. Roberts
Mrs. Ann Willard
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B. Fortenberry
Grady Williams Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
Mr. Harold Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone

Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Parsons
Mr. Lonnie Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Joiner
Winnie R. Williams
Mrs. Thelma Woodyear
Pauline Willoughby
Mr. Marc McArthur
Mrs. Nancy Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. McCormick
Mr. Bill Winders
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour M. Lipscomb
Charles Theodore Womack Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Carl A. Parker Jr.
Mrs. Eugenia A. Eskridge
Ms. Marie Womack
Mrs. Eugene H. Neill
Mrs. David P. Quinn
Kim Womack
Mr. & Mrs. Gaddis Womack
Cooper Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Buchanan
Mrs. Russ Woodward
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Speake
Mr. P.E. Woodson
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Morrison
Patricia Ann Hansen Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Sullivan & Rachel
Howard Wright
Dorothy Wright
Linda Wright
Gully Yates
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Petty

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Chapman
Mrs. Juanita Brown
Bob and Bernice Crouch
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Jonathan Ryan Hunt
Mr. & Mrs. Arlee R. Hunter
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Melton
Annette Herrington WMU,
Calvary BC
Mrs. Katie Goodens
Baptist Women, West Gulfport BC
Mr. Robert S. Newton Jr.
Wiggins Presbyterian Church
Dr. Frank Pollard
Ms. Marie Womack
Rev. and Mrs. Bob Starke
Mrs. L.E. Green

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Myrtle R. Abel
Mr. & Mrs. Herbie Kirk
Mrs. Myrtle Abel
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone
Mrs. Sadie Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Trussell
Russ Anthony
Mrs. Shirley Childs
Betha Arrington
Ora Baptist Church
Emma Athloun
Mr. & Mrs. Morris McCaffrey
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Alderson
Mr. & Mrs. Waymon Jones
Mrs. Betty Ashtman
Mr. Ann Lou Denton
Mary Lou Lott
Ms. Kitty Taylor Auburn
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen
Mrs. Maggie Austin
Mrs. Tommy R. Earls
Mr. W.G. Avery
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. King
Martha V. Rose & Clayton E. Bain
Mrs. Clayton E. Bain
Christie Lynn Barham
Mr. & Mrs. J.L. Knight

(to be continued)

Jan. 1, 1993 -
Jan. 31, 1993

HONORS

The Staff Members of FBC,
Cleveland
Maxine Moore Sunday School,
FBC Cleveland
Dr. and Mrs. Lee Castle
Mrs. W.W. Whitton

capsules

FORMER TOP SOVIET DECLARES FAITH: TBILISI, Georgia — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, former Soviet foreign minister and ally of Mikhail Gorbachev, announced in late November he has become a Christian. Sources told National and International Report that Shevardnadze may have been influenced by his American evangelical friends James and Susan Baker. Baker is former U.S. secretary of state. Long a professed atheist and communist, Shevardnadze, 60, was baptized at a Georgian Orthodox cathedral, he told a national radio audience. Russian President Boris Yeltsin made a similar move earlier in 1992, in what some believe may have been a bid to shore up his national popularity.

MISSIONARY COMPLETES NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION: RICHMOND, Va. — Larry Baker, a Southern Baptist missionary to Peru, has completed a five-year project of translating the New Testament into a dialect spoken by about 400,000 Quechua people. It is being printed by the American Bible Society. Baker, who resigned in October because of family medical needs, led a team of translators in working through the New Testament passage by passage. Baker is from Hopkinsville, Ky., where he and his family now live.

BAPTIST WORLD AID CONTRIBUTED \$115,000 TO RELIEF EFFORT IN SOMALIA: MCLEAN, Va. — Baptist World Aid has already contributed \$115,000 to the relief effort in Somalia, and is eager to further assist in the rehabilitation of the country and its people. BWAid has worked through three different groups in providing immediate assistance to those most in need. Canadian Baptist's Sharing Way Program, in cooperation with the Canadian Food Grains Bank, have successfully delivered 111,452 MT of food to the refugee camps at Ifo and Dhagahaley. This was almost enough to feed both camps of almost 100,000 people for one month. BWAid is also supporting a Sharing Way supplementary feeding program. BWAid has a strong link with CARE, with the director, Paul Montacute, being a member of its board of overseers. In October 1992, CARE's president, Philip Johnston, was appointed as the U.N. Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance in Somalia. Long term plans are now being made to stimulate Somalia's ailing economy through programs such as rehabilitating farms and re-establishing the livestock of nomadic pastoralists; rebuilding water systems, repairing roads, and building schools and hospitals; and providing training to village health workers to treat minor illnesses and monitor the nutritional status of mothers and children. In the meantime, many urgent needs still remain. BWAid relies on the generosity of its donors to continue to feed and care for the people of Somalia.

JEWES WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS FACE DEPORTATION: JERUSALEM (EP) — Supreme Court ruling in Israel unanimously held that Jews who believing in Jesus "are members of a different faith" because of their voluntary conversion. The ruling came about after Gary and Shirley Berresford petitioned the High Court of Justice to allow them to obtain immigrant visas under Israel's "Law of Return." The Berresfords were both born as Jews in South Africa. They are Christians and members of "Jews for Jesus." The Law of Return in Israel states that "every Jew has a right to come to Israel." An amendment clarified that a Jew is anyone born of a Jewish mother, or who is converted to Judaism. The Supreme Court decision made in December 1989, states that "any Jew who proclaims Jesus is the Messiah is no longer a Jew as concerning the Law of Return." Last year, the court ruled that three couples, all Jewish believers in Christ, must leave the country. Ari and Vanyanna Kendall and the Berresfords had until Feb. 21 to leave Israel. The Sidney and Linda Speakmans were under the same deadline, recently extended until the end of March. The families contend their ancestry makes them Jewish, that they are entitled to residency in their homeland.

ATTENTION POETS: OWINGS MILLS, Maryland — The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-XH, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 1993.

BILLY GRAHAM HOLDS FIRST MISSION IN UNITED GERMANY: MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Evangelist Billy Graham returns to Germany, March 17-21, to conduct his first outreach there since the former East and West Germany reunited. The outreach will touch the entire country and extend throughout Europe, making this the largest Christian outreach in the history of the continent. The meetings in Germany are called ProChrist '93, and this mission has the backing of more than 1,200 churches throughout the country including congregations in Essen, the Evangelical Alliance of Germany and the Protestant Church of Germany (EKD), as well as the cooperation of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany. The main meetings with Graham will be held in the Grugahalle in Essen, a city of 600,000 inhabitants, where Graham held tent meetings in 1960. Essen is located in Germany's heavily-industrialized Ruhr Valley, which has a population of six million people.

To stem God's wrath, church must proclaim truth, MacArthur says

By Tom Strobe

NASHVILLE (BP) — The United States of America has been abandoned by God and has no hope unless Christians live by his truth and proclaim it to their culture, Bible teacher John MacArthur said at a Southern Baptist bioethics seminar.

Every Christian needs "to start proclaiming God's Word loud and clear," MacArthur said. "How can we tell the people of our culture where the truth is if we don't preach and teach the Word of God?"

MacArthur's comments were made during two addresses at the Christian Life Commission's annual seminar, "Life at Risk: Crises in Medical Ethics," March 1-3 in Nashville. The senior pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., MacArthur also is an author and radio preacher.

"We are not on the brink of God's wrath in America," MacArthur said. "We are not anticipating God's wrath. We are in it. There is no surer token of a society under God's wrath than

when it does not tolerate anger against sin."

Using Romans 1:24-32 because it is an "apt analysis of what we are experiencing," MacArthur said the people described by the apostle Paul are "deprived of restraining grace," which results in "more heinous sin." They are "propelled by a low view of everyone but themselves," he said. Their "degrading passions" mean "they get what they ask for," which results in their being "found useless" for the purpose for which they were created and doing things which are not right, he said.

The reason God has abandoned America is four-fold, according to Romans 1:18-23, MacArthur said.

The culture received the revelation of God through his creation but rejected him, he said. Having rejected God's revelation, people rationalized their choice and ended up establishing their own religion, he said.

"The most devastating philosophy that ever entered this country is evolution, because it knocks the

legs out from under evangelism.... if you can explain the whole created universe without God, you don't need God," he said. Evolution "ends up with not needing a God, and that ends up with not needing a morality."

Americans, like the people described in Romans 1, have made a religion of creation, worshipping certain animal species and Mother Earth, MacArthur said.

While MacArthur discussed God's general revelation in creation during his first address, he presented God's special revelation in the Bible during his second.

God's Word, though always under attack both blatantly and subtly, is adequate for every need, he said.

"Every cry of the human heart is satisfied in the sufficiency of Scripture," MacArthur said.

Christians must "bring to this generation this truth," MacArthur said.

Strobe is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Churches in Oklahoma, elsewhere expanding use of banners in worship

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Just as Jesus used the symbol of Moses lifting up the snake in the desert (John 3:14-15) to describe his death on the cross, many churches today are lifting banners adorned with the names of Jesus as an avenue of worship and praise, a relatively new ministry in Southern Baptist churches.

Banners were first mentioned in the Old Testament book of Numbers when God told Moses and Aaron to camp around the Tent of Meeting "each man under his standard, with the banners of his family." Psalm 20:5 gives evidence of banners used for praise when it says, "We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God."

"Banners are not artsy, crafts things to make, but a walk with God," said Olive Sink, who heads a new banner ministry at Henderson Hills Church in Edmond, Okla. Banners are not begun until a thorough searching of Scripture has been done, Sink said, noting the materials, colors, and special trims can have key significance.

Women meeting to work on banners at Henderson Hills combine it with Bible study and visitation.

Trinity Church in Oklahoma City began a banner ministry last year and has been using the pages of its church newsletter to share the concept of the different banners.

One banner, titled "Thou Art Worthy," has a purple background for the majesty and royalty of Jesus. The fabric gives the effect of

movement, as the spirit of God moves. The scrolls are white for purity and the seals of the scrolls are silver denoting the Word of God. The words of each scroll, Power, Wealth, Wisdom, Strength, Honor, Glory, and Praise, given to the Lamb, are in red for the blood of Jesus. The Lamb is white for purity and is of a fleece fabric. The gold glitter painted out from the Lamb is for righteousness. The title letters, "Thou Art Worthy," are of silver, again denoting the Word of God.

"Minimum cost of a banner is \$100," said Lujean Howard, music associate of First Church, Tulsa, who noted that all of that church's banners are eight feet tall.

Book Reviews

World-Views in Conflict, by Ronald H. Nash, Zondervan. Choosing Christianity in a world of ideas; explains much of New Age movement. 176 pages.

Spice of Life, by Otena J. Stewart, Brentwood Press. A folksy story of growing up in Central Mississippi and the difficulties that were overcome by a strong Christian faith. 163 pages. (Can be ordered from the author, Rt. 2, Box 220, Pelahatchie, MS 39145.)

New Books by Broadman:
The Earth is the Lord's, by Richard D. Land and Louis A. Moore. Christians should have a special interest in taking care of

God's creation. 206 pages.

Life Cycle of A New Congregation, by Floyd Tidsworth Jr. Helps one to understand the process from birth to maturity in new churches. 143 pages.

Lord, Help Me Love This Hyperactive Child, by Evelyn Langston. One family's pilgrimage in this personality disorder that affects five million children. 160 pages.

Preaching From the Inside Out, by Charles B. Bugg. Witty! Practical! Must reading for pastors interested in improving their preaching. 144 pages.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 3-18
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

March 18, 1993